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REHABILITATION LOAN CLASH

Opposition Expressed To Premium Bond Issue

**T.W. Kwok
Recalled
To Canton**

Mr. T. W. Kwok, Commissioner for Kwangtung and Kwangsi Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been summoned to Canton by Dr. T. V. Soong, Governor of Kwangtung, to report on the Kowloon City election issue.

Mr. Kwok will be leaving for Canton today.

Yesterday Mr. T. W. Kwok called on His Excellency the Governor (Sir Alexander Grantham).

He refused to disclose the subject of his talks with the Governor.

Sassoon To Shift From S'hai

Shanghai, Dec. 17.

Sir Victor Sassoon, prominent British businessman, intimated in an interview today that he was considering the transfer of some of his large interests here to South China especially Kwangtung Province.

Sir Victor, who arrived yesterday on his first visit in nearly seven years, said that the main stumbling block to China's return to normalcy was her shaky and unstable currency.

With the present unsettled condition business is naturally forced to adopt a cautious attitude.

Hong Kong

Sir Victor spoke highly of Hong Kong's post-war development, saying that the Colony's export and import figures since the end of the war tend to show astonishing and far-reaching progress.

He said that business in Kwangtung will definitely benefit from Hong Kong's stability.

Asked what he thought was the best remedy for China's currency problem, Sir Victor replied that there could be little solution as long as China's printing presses are working overtime turning out banknotes.

— Reuter.

BAO DAI AND BIDAULT TO MEET IN LONDON

Ex-Emperor Bao Dai of Annam will fly to Britain by a BOAC plane on Saturday for discussions with M. Bidault, French Foreign Minister, who is expected to remain in London for two more weeks, the "China Mail" learned from quarters close to the local French authorities.

Bao Dai will be accompanied by four members of his staff, including M. Henry Thinh, Annamite financial expert, who until recently was on the staff of the local French Consulate.

The former Emperor is travelling to London to meet the French Foreign Minister before the latter returns to Paris, where M. Bidault, French High Commissioner in Indo-China, is waiting for him to report on, and discuss, the recent conference with Bao Dai in the Gulf of Tonkin.

M. Bidault, it was learned locally, is opposed to the French Government's decision to recognise the authority of Bao Dai as representing the whole of Indo-China.

The only remaining question to be settled between Bao Dai and the French is the army issue.

Bao Dai insists on the complete severance of the army from the French, who want indirect control of the armed forces in an independent Indo-China.

Bao Dai and the four members of his staff have already obtained entry visas for Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

After the talks with the French Foreign Minister in London, Bao Dai will visit Paris and other European Continental cities.

Later he plans to visit the United States to study the economic system of that country before returning to Indo-China.

General Nguyen Van Kuan, President of the Provisional Government of Cochinchina, did not arrive from Saigon yesterday as was expected.

ON OTHER PAGES

Page Two
Electric Light, Rates Cut.
Page Three
Police Pensions.
Page Four
Letters from Readers.
Page Five
Collapse of Big Four.
Page Six
China's Restrictions.
Page Seven
Rubbish.
Page Eight
Blood Test.

Ordinance Passes Third Reading

A lone voice was raised in Legislative Council yesterday in opposition to the proposed issue of premium bonds under the Hong Kong Rehabilitation Loan Ordinance, 1947, which passed its second and third reading without amendment.

Mr. M. M. Watson said he supported the Bill but was opposed to any form of Government-sponsored or controlled lottery.

"I wish to make it quite clear that I am in favour of the Bill. However I want to refer to a matter which the Financial Secretary introduced in his speech on introducing the Bill for the first time," said Mr. Watson.

"In his speech, Mr. Follows observed that it was too late to take advantage of the favourable market conditions which had existed at the beginning of the year.

"Perhaps, it is for this reason that he has suggested further in his statement — or rather I should not say, suggested — he stated that Government have under consideration the issue of premium bonds.

Opposed

"In an earlier speech I made in this Council on the introduction of the Inland Revenue Bill, I expressed my views on the question of Government running lotteries.

"I apprehend that the premium bonds will, in their nature, be lotteries.

"I think one can say without the slightest fear of contradiction, that it has been the universal practice in England to avoid all kinds of lotteries in which the State would be concerned, so that in many cases Acts have been passed at Home, which have prevented other bodies — not State bodies — from dealing in lotteries.

"I have observed that the present scheme seems to come out of Palestine.

"As far as I am aware, nothing very good has come out of Palestine in modern times, but I gladly except the Attorney General and the Director of Public Works (laughter).

"However, the question is only under discussion and in due course a Bill will be introduced when a final decision is reached.

"I will, therefore, not elaborate further at this stage, but I do hope that when a decision is reached, it will be

Peiping Police Tell Foreigners:

DON'T CARRY U.S. MONEY

Peiping, Dec. 17.

The Police Bureau today warned foreign businessmen that Nanking's new regulations, prohibiting the carrying of United States currency in "public places," would be strictly enforced.

The police sub-station in Peiping's former Legation Quarter, where most foreign businessmen are concentrated, called a meeting of foreign businessmen and gave them warning.

They also stated that businessmen not registered with the Bureau of Social Affairs, in accordance with the April company law, must do so within a week or their businesses would be closed.

Meanwhile, in Nanking, the Chinese Government today relaxed foreign trade control to permit the import of "extra-quota" raw materials which are destined for use in the manufacture of exports.

The Government will grant open market rate of foreign exchange to authorized merchants to purchase of "extra-quota" imports. — United Press.

BRITISH POLICE SERGT. KILLED IN JERUSALEM

Jerusalem, Dec. 17.

After two blank days because of rain, play in the seriously wounded during the night when they were attacked in Jerusalem, bringing the Holy Land's toll of dead in 17 days of Arab-Jewish strife to 260.

Violence, however, appeared to be tapering off.

This morning was the quietest since the United Nations decision to partition Palestine touched off the wave of disorders.

There were reports that a Jewish hand had attacked the Arab residential area of Jaffa. In Jerusalem just before dawn, but the police could not confirm these reports.

Police fired two shots at curfew breakers in Jerusalem's commercial centre, but there was no other word of serious violence.

The precarious position of the Jews in Arab areas resulted, however, in the closing of the Kallia Hotel on the Dead Sea — the Holy Land's swankiest winter resort, which is owned by Jews and staffed by both Arabs and Jews.

Police were unable to place the blame on anyone for the attack on the two British sergeants last night.

One police report said that Jews fired at the men, while another blamed the attack on Arabs in a stolen armoured car. Palestine government officials were told today that they would receive no leave until end of December because of the large amount of work involved in the British withdrawal.

After December only officials whose work is not essential to

Marshall Lunches At Palace

London, Dec. 17.

Secretary of State Marshall will lunch with King George and Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace today. He is the only one of the visiting Foreign Ministers to be invited alone to the Palace on a personal basis.

General Marshall will leave at 4 p.m. tomorrow in President Truman's plane "Sacred Cow". He is scheduled to arrive in Washington at 9 a.m. on Friday. He will report by radio to the nation on Friday night on the results of the Big Four conference.

Ambassador to Britain, Lewis Douglas and State Department Counsellor Charles Bohlen will fly back with General Marshall.

Other top members of the United States delegation will return on Friday on the liner Queen Mary. — United Press.

Pirates Laid Deep Plans To Loot Dutch Liner

The gang which pirated the 4,500-ton Dutch liner "Van Heutz" on Sunday had planned the deed for a period of several months. They spent more than HK\$100,000 in intelligence work, stevedores passengers told Chinese press representatives on Thursday.

The passengers said that the information slipped out when one of the pirates remarked, while ransacking luggage: "We put months into this plot. It cost us more than \$100,000. The results are not so good."

They also revealed that at least six of the pirates boarded the vessel in Hong Kong harbor, and that the pirates were "very smart" and "very dangerous".

Several rattan baskets, in which the pirates presumably concealed their arms, were found on the ship. In the baskets were copies of old Hong Kong newspapers.

Meanwhile, Mr. Sparrow, Acting Commissioner of Police, told a Press conference, yesterday that a full report of the piracy has been forwarded to the Chinese authorities. — Mr. T. W. Kwok, Special Commissioner (Foreign Affairs) for Kwangtung-Kwangsi, and to the Chinese Commissioner of Police in Canton.

Representatives from Mr. Kwok's office in Hong Kong visited the "Van Heutz" on Tuesday with the Police and officials of the JCJPL, agents for the vessel.

Local shipping circles are now considering re-introducing anti-piracy measures on ships plying along the China Coast.

One of these is the re-establishment of a private syndicate whereby ships going up the coast could be protected by the Hong Kong Water Police by wireless, regularly every two hours, until they are well past the "danger zone."

Two Largest Cities In Sicily Strike-Bound

Rome, Dec. 17.

Sicily's two largest cities — Palermo and Catania — were today in the grip of general strikes called by their local Chambers of Labour. Sports from southern Italy also told of new labour unrest.

The Sicilian strikes were both called to back demands for unemployment relief — the same reason which the Rome Chamber of Labour gave in calling a three-day general strike there last week.

The local chambers, which called the strikes, are affiliated with the Communist-dominated General Confederation of Labour.

Rome press dispatches reported that, in Calabria, workers in two places had refused to carry out strike orders from Communist-led labour bodies.

At the Calabrian port of Catanzaro Marina, fishermen continued to work, Rome's Il Messaggero reported.

At San Benedetto del Tronto, also in Calabria, machine workers were reported sticking to their jobs.

L'Unita, Communist newspaper in Rome, said that strikes were in prospect at two other Sicilian towns "in the interest of the unemployed," at Catanzaro and at Roma.

L'Unita also reported a general strike had been called at Pescara for Thursday to protect a Government order "dissolving" the communist administration. — Associated Press.

THE WEATHER

The intense Siberian anti-cyclone continues to dominate east and south-east Asia. A moderate depression south of Honshu is moving E.N.E.

Forecast—Moderate north-east winds (shore), strong offshore, cloudy and cold.

Yesterday's Weather—

Maximum: 68.1 deg. F.

Minimum: 55.4 deg. F.

Humidity: 71%.

Rainfall: 0.11 in.

Average of 1937: 61.7 deg. F.

Bar: 30.1 in.

Wind: 12 m.p.h.

Sea: 1-2 ft.

Cloud: 100%.

Temp: 68.1 deg. F.

Wind: 12 m.p.h.

Sea: 1-2 ft.

Cloud: 100%.

Temp: 68.1 deg. F.

HK BANKS PUT UNDER RIGID GOVT. CONTROL

"Licence" System To Be Imposed

All banks and banking business in the Colony, whether already operating or to be established in future, will henceforth have to be licensed and are to be carried on by companies only. They will be subject to rigid Government control, with power vested in the Governor to cancel licences in case of contravention of the law.

Legislation giving effect to this measure is provided in the Banking Ordinance 1947 which passed its first reading in Legislative Council yesterday.

Main reasons for this clamping down on banks, explained by Government, are the inadequate financial backing of certain institutions carrying on a banking business, and speculation and infringement of trade and exchange control regulations indulged in by certain banks.

Explaining the necessity for the measure, the Attorney General (Mr. J. B. Griffin) said:

"At the present time, the legislation of the Colony does not contain provision for the regulation or control of the business of banking. Within

recent times it has been shown that the necessity exists for the provision of some such legislation, because persons or organisations have been doing business in the Colony on occasions or in certain cases without having adequate financial backing.

"Additionally, it has been found that there are organisations doing business of the nature of banking business which is not in fact of value to the Colony, since they are engaged in speculation or in the infringement of trade or exchange control regulations of this Colony or of China.

"The purpose of this Bill is to provide legislation of the type which, as I have said, is considered to be necessary. As summarised, the content of the Bill is as follows:—

"It visualises that upon enactment of this Bill, henceforth banking business in the Colony may be conducted only by a company as defined in the Bill.

"Superimposed upon that requirement, the Bill envisages that a company designed to do banking business shall also obtain a licence from the Governor-in-Council.

Provisions

"The Bill provides that thereafter, except with the express authority of the Governor-in-Council, no person or business shall continue to employ the term 'bank' or any derivatives of the term 'bank' in the title of its business.

"The Bill also provides for power in the Governor to appoint an advisory committee to advise him in matters relating to banking; and special powers (Continued on Page 12)

New Jury Amendment Bill Passed

The Jury Amendment Ordinance 1947, which empowers the Court to continue in a case where an offence is punishable with death in the absence of a single jury man, passed its second and third reading in Legislative Council yesterday.

Also passed into law was the Births Registration (Special Registers) Ordinance, 1947, empowering the Registrar General of Births and Deaths to open special registers to replace records lost during the war.

3 Ships In Distress In Pacific

Adak, Alaska, Dec. 17.

Two U.S. Army ships — a tanker and a freighter — were in distress in northern Pacific waters off the Aleutians, last night in the wake of a gale.

But both, carrying a total of 62 men, were still seaworthy and, although radio dispatches to the Coast Guard headquarters said.

A third ship, an unidentified Chinese vessel, was reported to be aground on Yoron Island, in the Ryukyu Islands, in the Western Pacific with its engine-room flooded.

Associated Press and United Press.

What is a bargain?

The Oxford English Dictionary Says:

"Agreement on terms of give and take; purchase, especially favourable one; good things bought cheaply, etc., etc."

Where does one get it?

IN THE

GRAND SALE OF THE SEASON

AT

KEENSEN CO. CHINA BUILDING
VAN CO CO. 33 QUEEN'S ROAD C.
JITSING CO. 33A QUEEN'S ROAD C.



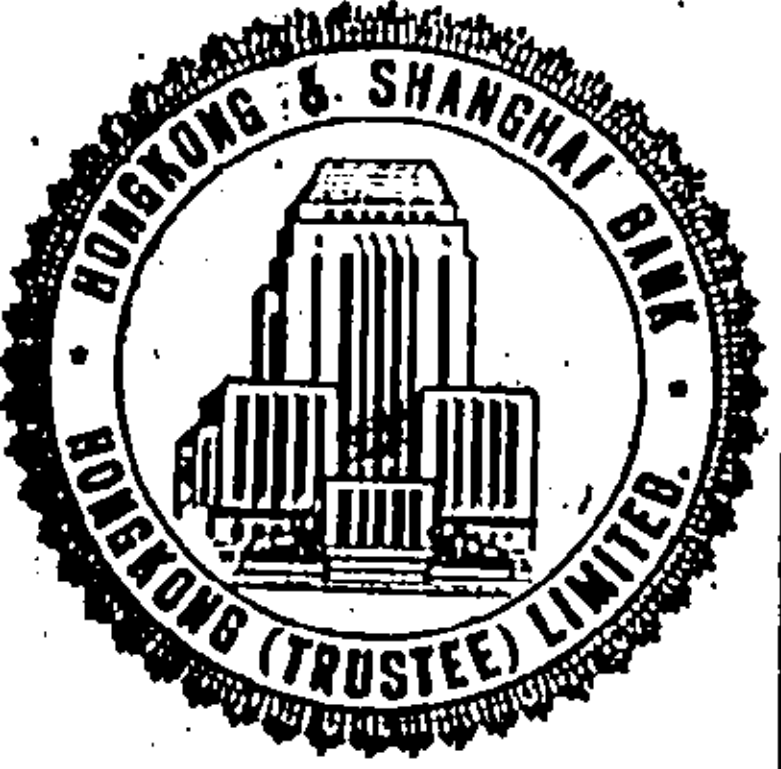
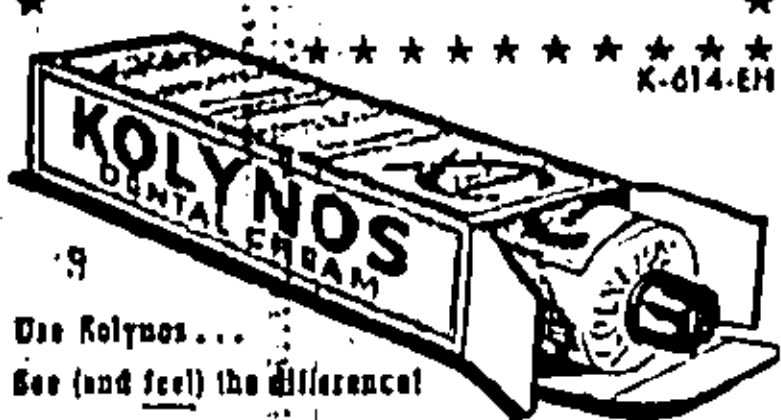
says
Carmen Miranda

Kolynos, a concentrated Dental Cream, produces a pleasant-tasting foam which helps clean the teeth and leaves the mouth delightfully refreshed. Millions of people cannot be wrong when they say that Kolynos...

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is economical!

A breath that's fresh & dazzling smile. The two are always quite in style.

Enjoy them both the pleasant way by using Kolynos twice a day!



can be appointed as

★ EXECUTOR ★

OF YOUR WILL

to act

ALONE

or

JOINTLY

with a relation or friend

or

CONTINGENTLY

in case the relation or friend nominated to the office is unable or unwilling to act when the time comes.

★ This is just ★

one of many services offered with the assurance

of

CONTINUITY

EFFICIENCY

EXPERIENCE

and

PERSONAL ATTENTION

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HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK

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POLICE PHONE POSTS IN STREETS SOON

Actg. Commissioner of Police (Mr. W. La B. Sparrow) told a weekly press conference yesterday that a scheme is now under consideration for the introduction of street police telephone posts in the Colony.

Mr. Sparrow said that, when the equipment for these posts is available, they will be set up at road junctions and other spots most convenient for public use.

On the subject of robberies, Mr. Sparrow said that last month they totalled 22, including attempts and highway robberies, as against 28 in October and 34 in September.

INFORMATION WANTED

Will any person who witnessed the traffic accident on Saturday, Dec. 13th at about 10 a.m. at the junction of Salisbury Road and Canton Road, when a passenger on the lorry fell onto the road, please go to the nearest Police Station or Traffic Office, Hong Kong, or Kowloon, and report?

She Tried To Bargain In The Dock

"You cannot bargain here. You are not out shopping!" Mr. Conklin told 19-year-old Wong Lai, who, when she was told that she was to be fined \$50 for being in a prohibited area without a permit, smiled broadly at the Magistrate and said that she would pay \$25 as she could not afford to pay \$50.

Together with Wong was Chan King, on the same charge; she was bound over to be of good behaviour for twelve months in a bond of \$25.

Mr. Conklin inquired into Wong's past record and found that she had three previous convictions for loitering and causing obstruction.

Instead of the fine, he ordered her to be recommended for banishment to Mui Yuen.

Defendants were found by L/Cpl. Porter inside the gate Victoria Barracks, talking to the two sentries on duty.

Insp. H. Brown stressed that the Military Police were having great difficulty keeping this type of woman out of the Barracks.

Recent results following police action had stepped up the number of arrests to a high proportion. He added that one of the gangs arrested in the Colony at the end of October was identified as having taken part in nine armed robberies between August and October.

Hub-Caps

Concerning the theft of motorcar parts, such as hub-caps, Mr. Sparrow said that the police would be very grateful if car owners would put their numbers, or some other identification mark inside the caps so that when they were recovered by the police, the owner could be notified.

As regards bicycles, Mr. Sparrow said there is practically one bicycle stolen every day in Hong Kong. A large number of the owners were not able to identify their machines because they do not know their own bicycle numbers.

"If all bicycle owners were to make a note of them, it would greatly assist the police in tracing the bicycles, especially as in a large number of cases (the bicycles are taken to places and re-assembled, while others are taken across the Shum Chum border into China," he added.

Calling for prompter cooperation from the public in reporting burglaries or attempted burglaries, Mr. Sparrow said that in some cases attempts which occurred during the night were not reported to the police until late the next morning.

If panes of glass were broken they should not be touched as this made the tracing of fingerprints very difficult.

Giving figures of traffic accidents for the last two months, Mr. Sparrow said that, in October, fatal accidents numbered 11, serious accidents 21, slight accidents 147, and damage to vehicles 362.

For November, fatal accidents dropped to nine, serious accidents 21, slight accidents 154 and damage to vehicles 304. Widow District—2. Lam Hol

"Protected Places" Ordinance

The Protected Places (Safety) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947, to amend the principal ordinance of 1946, was passed by the Council at its first reading yesterday.

Introducing the Bill, the Attorney-General (Mr. J. B. Griffin) said the principal ordinance, enacted last year, was designed to meet a social set of circumstances presented by the fact that certain places within the Colony which held valuable stores, mainly for the Navy, Army and Air Force, were being subject to considerable looting.

The ordinance was passed in order to give authorised guards under certain safeguards the right to use firearms in the protection of such places.

Clause 2 of the principal ordinance had by cross-reference declared the protected places for the purpose of the ordinance to be those "protected places so declared under Regulation 32 of the wartime Defence Regulations."

This regulation would expire on Dec. 31 this year, and the

Renewal Of Death Registers

The Bill to authorise the Registrar-General of Births and Deaths to keep special lists for the purpose of recording deaths, previously noted in specified registers just during the Occupation, passed its reading in Legislative Council yesterday.

The Attorney-General (Mr. J. B. Griffin) said it was similar to the Births Registration (Special Registers) Ordinance, 1947, except that in this case it was simpler.

The last death registers were covered by two Ordinances, only those of 1896 and 1934, instead of three.

The (Colonial) Secretary (Mr. D. M. Macdonald) carried the motion, which was passed unanimously.

New Police Pensions Bill

The Police Force (Retirement of Certain Officers) Ordinance, 1947, to provide for the payment of pensions or gratuities to officers of the Police Force who have elected to retire in circumstances which would not otherwise entitle them to pension or gratuity, passed its first reading in Legislative Council yesterday.

Explaining the Bill, the Attorney-General (Mr. J. B. Griffin) said that, in 1944, the reorganisation of the Police Force, affecting a reduction in the European establishment of non-gazetted officers of the Police, was under consideration.

Since the liberation of the Colony this policy was continued.

Mr. Griffin explained that, in the application of this policy, the normal course was to abolish the offices held by those officers whose services were being dispensed with in the reorganisation.

This was, however, found to be impracticable. It was, therefore, found necessary to legislate specially to enable officers who had elected to retire under the reorganisation scheme to obtain a pension or gratuity on terms which would be analogous to what they would get if their offices had been abolished.

The Motion was seconded by the Colonial Secretary and unanimously approved.

UNDER AGE

A fine of \$250 was imposed on Leung Chou Koo when he appeared before Mr. J. G. Conklin at Central Magistracy yesterday on charges of employing a 12-year-old boy to work on the premises and, employing a boy under 16 years to work for seven days a week and failing to give him one day a week rest.

NO DUTY STAMP

For failing to fix a duty stamp on a receipt, Tse Fung-kan was fined \$20 on each of two counts when he appeared before Mr. J. G. Conklin at Central Magistracy yesterday. Appearing before the same Magistrate were Lau Ping and Kwok Fung Fao, who were each fined \$25 for failing to fix a stamp on a receipt.

RADIO

ZBW Hong Kong Broadcasting on a frequency of 845 kilocycles from 12.30 to 2.00 p.m. and 6.00 to 11.00 p.m., and also on 9.52 megacycles in the 11 metre band from 12.10 to 1.15 p.m. to 7.10 and 9.00 to 11.00 p.m.

H. K. T. 12.30 p.m.—Daily Programme Summary. 12.45 p.m.—(Variety) Request Favourites. 1.00 a.m.—News, Weather Report and Announcements.

1.15 p.m.—Orchestral Interlude. 1.15 p.m.—Kavir Cugat & His Waldorf. 1.30 p.m.—Jazz Time Concert. 2.00 p.m.—Class Drama.

2.00 p.m.—Special "Jazz Journal" Presented by Philip Barr. 2.30 p.m.—Studio 54? 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NEW WOOLLEN OVERCOATS \$85. Gents/Lads! Furcoat, Slim teenage girl, \$75! New Racing Bicycle, \$130! Typewriters! Staircase, 289, top-floor, Prince Edward, Phone 57687 (5-8 p.m.)

ALL PRODUCTS from Formosa obtainable through George Lin & Company, 202 Bank of East Asia Building, Tel. 24408-22651.

LONGINES gent's wristwatch stainless steel new, fine Christmas present \$200.00. Underwood office Typewriter 14" No. 55, newly overhauled, U.S.A. \$750.00 Box 387, "China Mail."

TIENTSIN CARPET, beautiful design, blue background, 8 x 9, almost new. Will sell cheap. Inspection any hour daytime. 2 Wyndham Street, Top floor.

EXTRA LONG Inner-spring mattresses with matching box springs, 80 x 38, can be made into beds by addition of wooden feet, two beds only well known Sealy manufacture. Call 23583 or write Box 388 "China Mail"

TOYS AND GAMES at reasonable prices. Good variety. BUY NOW to avoid the CHRISTMAS RUSH. THE WORLD'S NEWS CO., 56 Nathan Rd., Kowloon.

UNDERWOOD LATEST MODEL just arrived. Lowest price. Also Typewriters for rent. Service guaranteed. Tel. 27582. Universal Typewriter Co., 22 Des Voeux Road, C, 1st floor.

3 BRAND NEW British Hercules Wire Tying Machines at \$310 (12 gauge), \$300 (18/15 gauge), and \$285 (16/18 gauge). Apply Box 362 "Sunday Herald"

50 LADIES' Pure Wool Bed Jackets in attractive pastel shades and white at \$8 each. Apply Box 363 "Sunday Herald"

60. SPECIAL light weight British type Bicycles by well known manufacturer at \$110 each. Cased for immediate delivery. Apply Box 364 "Sunday Herald"

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THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO., LTD. NOTICE

REDUCTION OF CHARGES FOR CURRENT

Charges for current will be reduced for all meters read on and after 1st January 1948:—

LIGHTING		From	To
With discounts as follows:		cents	cents
1	to	159 units	37 " 35 "
160	"	625	35.15 " 33.25 "
626	"	1,565	33.2 " 31.5 "
1,566	"	3,125	31.45 " 29.75 "
3,126	"	6,250	29.6 " 28 "
6,251	"	9,875	27.75 " 26.25 "
9,876	"	12,500	25.9 " 24.5 "
12,501	"	16,025	24.05 " 22.75 "
16,026	"	18,750	22.2 " 21 "
Over 18,750 units		20.35	19.25 "

POWER		From 14		To 14	
1	to	1,000	14	"	14
1,001	units and over		14	"	13.3

THERMAL STORAGE WATER HEATERS 11.5 " 11.5 "

BULK SUPPLY CONSUMERS Special Rates

For THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC CO., LTD. GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO., LTD. Agents.

Hong Kong, 17th December, 1947.

BOSTON STEAM LAUNDRY

BEST SERVICE MODERATE PRICES

31R, WYNDHAM ST.

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AVAILABLE NOW
• NEW POPULAR MUSIC
• CHRISTMAS MUSIC
• RELIGIOUS MUSIC

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QUALITY job printing of every description. Letterheads, Visiting cards, Copperplates, The stamping, Booklets, Balance sheets, Envelopes and Office supplies. Copper, Rubber, Horn & Ivory stamps maker.

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Beten's Beauty Salons

You can trust your personal Beauty Problems — your Permanent Waves, Shampoo, Sets, Tinting, Facials, Manicure, Pedicure to Beten's expert operators (1st floor) above Lane Crawford's. Tel. 53161.

"ATLAS A"

Wood Preservative.

Permanent protection against white ants, dry and wet rot. Concentrated. Not inflammable. No smell. Economical.

Particulars and supplies from W. R. Loxley & Co., (China) Ltd., York Buildings, Tel. 51164.

LA SALLE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION REUNION DINNER.

Subject to favourable response, the above will be held on the 23rd December, 1947 at 7.30 p.m. at the Cafe Wiseman. The occasion will also be in honour of the Rev. Brother Cassian who will be leaving the Colony for a long, and well deserved, holiday.

Please telephone 32348 or write to the undersigned c/o Ta Hing Co. (H.K.) Ltd., St. George's Building, Ice House St., Hongkong, for particulars to do with the occasion.

F. M. CASTRO, President, La Salle Old Boys' Association

WAR MEMORIAL FUND FLAG DAY

Will all Hong Kong ladies who have volunteered to sell flags on Saturday, 20th December, please collect their flags, trays and flags from the War Memorial Fund Room, 1st floor, Supreme Court (entrance from Statue Square side), between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Friday, 19th December.

Kowloon sellers should collect from the lobby of the Peninsula Hotel between the same hours or the same day.

LAMBERT BROS.

Auctioneers, Surveyors and Appraisers. Pedder Building. Telephone No. 3022A.

PUBLIC AUCTION

The Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction on

Friday, the 19th December 1947 commencing at 2.30 P.M.

at their Sales Rooms No. 3, Hankow Road Kowloon.

A QUANTITY OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE & X'MAS TOYS comprising:—

Steel Filing Cabinet, Car Tables, Iron Beds, Cocktail Cabinet, Ice Box, Bureau, Canvases, Chairs, Chest of Drawers, Kitchen Tables, Lawn Mower, Radiators, Chesterfield Suites, Dressing Tables, Ward robes With Glass, Low Boys Dining Tables, Sideboards, Glass Cabinets, Chairs, Curio, Vases Tea Sets, Glasses, 2 Enamel Baths, 1 Large Rocking Horse 1 Lot of Toys, Tinslin Rugs English Carpets, 1 Underwood Typewriter 14" 1 Packard Bell & 1 Philco Radio, Desks, Typist Tables, Tea Poy and Bath Room, Mirrors Etc., Etc.

Also 2 Fridgidares

On View from Thursday, the 18th December 1947.

Terms: As Customary.

LAMBERT BROS. Auctioneers.

Service Auction Rooms

Auctioneers, Surveyors, etc. Basement, French Bank Bldg. A.R.S. & Sons, Auctioneers. Telephone 11111

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED

Notice is Hereby Given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the above named Company will be held at the Office of the Company, Exchange Building, Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong, on the 19th day of December, 1947, at 11 a.m. to consider and, if thought fit, to pass a special Resolution the following Resolution:—

"That the new Articles of Association submitted to the Meeting, and for the purpose of identification subscribed by the Chairman thereof, be approved and adopted as the Articles of Association of the Company, in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, all the existing Articles of Association thereof."

A print of the new Articles of Association, together with a print of the existing Articles of Association can be inspected at the Registered Offices of the Company, Exchange Building, Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong, or at the Offices of Messrs. Deacons, 1 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong, Solicitors of the Company, at any time during the hours of 10 o'clock in the forenoon and 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

By Order of the Board of Directors, R. TAYLOR, Manager & Secretary.

Hong Kong, 19th Nov., 1947.

CHINA LIGHT & POWER COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that Final Dividend Warrants in respect of the year ending 30th September 1947, will be available for collection at the Company's Administrative Offices, Argyle Street, Kowloon, as from Monday 22nd December, 1947.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

P. W. W. WOOD.

Secretary and Chief Accountant.

NOTICE CHINA LIGHT & POWER COMPANY, LIMITED. REDUCTION OF CHARGES

The following further reductions in charges will be made for current supplied from 1st January, 1948:—

Lighting from 44 cents to 40 cents per unit.

Power from 19 cents to 18 cents per unit.

Proportionate reductions will be made in respect of lighting and power supplied in the New Territories, and the new rates will be charged for current during the month of January, 1948.

Bulk supply consumers are being notified direct of the decrease affecting their Agreements with this Company for the supply of current.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

P. W. W. WOOD, Secretary & Chief Accountant.

Hongkong, 17th Dec., 1947.

NOTICE Maryknoll Sister Students' Association

All former students who have not yet registered their names and addresses with the secretary are requested to send same for registration to the

Acting Secretary, GLORIA REMEDIOS, 114 Argyle Street, Kowloon.

HARBOUR DEPARTMENT NOTICE

It is hereby notified that all offices of the Harbour Department will be closed on Christmas Day, 26th December, 1947.

J. JOLLY, Harbour Master.

Harbour Office, Hongkong, 17th December, 1947.

Letters From Readers

Correction

Sir,—Part of an item which appeared in today's "China Mail" under the headlines "Kowloon City Case" stated:—

"Of the 2,000 persons mentioned in the Press," said Mr. Fowler, only between 700 and 800 are bona fide residents of the Walled City."

The correct version is as follows:

In reply to the Magistrate's question as to what would happen to these 2,000 people living in these sheds, when they were demolished, Mr. Fowler's reply was "There are not 2,000 people as quite a lot of them that work in the knitting factories live elsewhere."

On being asked "How many people did in fact live in these sheds?"

Mr. Fowler replied "Roughly between 800-900."

ALFRED MARSACK, Public Relations Officer.

S'hai Expands

Sir,—May I be allowed to expand on a few points concerning the article: "Shanghai Plans For Expansion" in your paper on the 15th instant?

First and foremost, it must be emphatically stressed that the plan is not a "re-creation" of the old Shanghai, but a plan drawn up by the Shanghai City Government prior to the war. This however was confined

He Frightened The Cafe Customers

"It is one thing being drunk and another thing being drunk and abusive," said Mr. J. G. Conklin at Central Magistracy yesterday when 29-year-old Boris Markoff appeared in court for the second time during the past year on a charge of disorderly conduct.

A further charge of maliciously damaging a glass table, causing damage to the value of \$15 was preferred against him.

On the first charge (to which accused pleaded "Guilty"), he was fined \$50 with the option of three weeks hard labour.

On the second charge defendant pleaded "Not guilty," he was found guilty and fined \$75 with the option of three weeks hard labour, the sentences to be consecutive.

An incident occurred in the Tai O Restaurant, Hennessy Road, when Markoff, after eating \$1.50 worth of food walked to another table, picked up a bottle and banged on the glass top, breaking the glass and frightening away the customers.

Defendant's excuse was that he was drunk and did not remember the affair.

Insp. H. Brownrigg prosecuted.

URBAN COUNCIL NOTICE PRIVATE CREMATIONS

The Urban Council is now able to undertake private cremations at the Government Crematoria at:—

Sookunpoo ... Eastern Hospital Road;

Kai Lung Wan (W.) Cemetery ... Victoria Rd.;

Kowloon ... Boundary St. (between Fa Yuen Street & Railway).

2. The fee for each cremation will be \$20.00.

3. Motor transport for removing the body from any address in Hong Kong, Kowloon and New Kowloon, and for returning the remains after cremation will be provided without further charge.

4. For cases in the New Territories an additional charge according to distance will be made to cover increased transportation cost.

5. Further particulars may be obtained from the Health Inspector, Crematoria (Tel. No. 59489).

R. W. H. MAYNARD, Secretary, Urban Council.

Hongkong, 16th December, 1947.

Deal Xmas Present

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EXPEDITION INTO CHINA

Millionaire Search For Mystery Mountains

Quest For Yellow River Source

Chicago, Dec. 16. Milton Reynolds, millionaire aviation enthusiast, announced plans today for an expedition into western China to search for an unmapped mountain range and to seek solutions to other scientific mysteries.

Reynolds, who sponsored two record-breaking round-the-world flights, said the expedition could be conducted jointly by his company and the Boston Museum of Science. It would consist of 10 scientists and 10 technicians and would leave Chicago before January 1.

The flight will be made in a specially constructed four-engine C-87 capable of cruising at 35,000 feet. William P. Odom, who piloted the planes on the global flights, will pilot the expedition.

Final arrangements for the expedition were completed on Monday by Reynolds and Terria Moore, President of the Boston Museum, and Bradford Washburn, world-famed explorer, and director of the museum.

Washburn and his wife recently climbed Mount McKinley in Alaska.

Reynolds said the expedition would search for the uncharted mountain range reported by wartime "hump" pilots and would also attempt to discover.

Firstly, whether the Yellow River gorge is the greatest in the world;

Secondly, the source of the Yellow River;

Thirdly, the geological origin of the unmapped mountain range;

Fourthly, whether the region was covered by ice during the ice age;

Fifthly, the altitudes of the major peaks in the unexplored area that are believed to reach 14,000 to 25,000 feet.

Reynolds said the expedition would also attempt to photograph the mysterious Lake Kokonor from the air.

The expedition will be based at Chengtu, China, and is expected to cover approximately 50,000 miles.—United Press.

CLARA THREAT

Tientsin, Dec. 17. The Garrison authorities here have threatened the seizure of records and other possessions of CLARA officials and their ejection to Reg territory, but are awaiting final word from Nanking, which is expected within 48 hours.—Associated Press.

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"JANE"



Tipping Ban Abandoned

London, Dec. 17. Two of London's biggest hotels, the Regent Palace and the Strand Palace, have given up a 35-year struggle to abolish tipping.

The management of the hotels, which are jointly owned, said that it could not be done.

The Regent Palace has changed its cable address, which was "untippable".—Associated Press.

Beer Bottle Tests

Oakland, California, Dec. 16.

A Trans-Ocean Airlines DC-4 is scheduled to take off tomorrow (Wednesday) from Oakland airport with 100 beer bottles to be dropped into the Pacific between Oakland and Oahu to test the durability of bottles and movement of ocean currents.

The bottles, in groups of five, will be dropped from an average altitude of 9,000 feet with six drops planned between San Francisco and Honolulu, six between Honolulu and Wake Island and four each between Wake and Guam and Guam and Okinawa.

Each sealed bottle will contain instructions in English and seven other languages for mailing it back to the manufacturer.—The owner of an Illinois glass company.—United Press.

Polish Political Deal Denied

Breslau, Dec. 16.

The Socialist Party Congress here will not take up the issue of a union between the Socialists and Communists, M. Josef Cyrankiewicz, Polish Prime Minister and leader of the Socialist Party told foreign journalists here.

Neither the Communists nor Socialists has asked for a decision now on the issue, he said, adding: "Also we shall not discuss our new party programme but only its principles."

M. Adam Rapacki, Minister of the Merchant Navy, told Congress: "Our aim is the same as the Communists, but our ways are not theirs. Our care for the individual will supplement the energy that Communist engineers are putting into the new economic machine of the state."

Today Congress was electing the party executive and no major changes were expected. It is widely believed that the party will, as M. Cyrankiewicz put it, retain its own character within a united workers front.

Socialist Party traditions have shown more vitality in this congress than most foreign observers had expected.—Reuter.

Archbishop And The Red Dean

London, Dec. 16.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, today issued a statement disassociating himself and the Church of England from the "actions and utterances" of the 73-year-old "Red" Dean of Canterbury, Dr. Hewlett Johnson.

Dr. Fisher declared that it was necessary because of the "widespread misunderstandings and misconceptions" both on the continent and in the United States, liable to affect relations of the Church of England with foreign churches and countries, to make clear the position of Dr. Johnson, well-known for his championship of the cause of Russia and her satellites.

"It has been supposed that the Dean of Canterbury must necessarily be acting on the instructions of the Archbishop of Canterbury and representing his views," Dr. Fisher said.

"I find it necessary therefore to repeat the warning given by Archbishop Lang in 1937, when the Dean was publicly rebuked after he had violently denounced General Franco in a speech at Strasbourg.

Limits

"The Dean's office and jurisdiction in this country does not extend beyond the confines of the Cathedral body of which he is head. Outside of those limits, he speaks and acts only for himself; the Archbishop of Canterbury is neither responsible for what the Dean may say or do nor has the power to control it.

"In view of the special and worldwide associations which surround the name of Canterbury, it is necessary to make the position quite clear."

Last October, Dr. Johnson returned from a nine week tour of eastern Europe to say that he was deeply impressed with the need to tell the people of Britain and the United States the truth about what was happening in those "splendid new worlds".—Reuter.

Shanghai, Dec. 17.

Commissioners of nine municipal bureaux today petitioned Mayor K. C. Wu, protesting against the recent Executive Yuan order slashing the municipal staff by 1,000 members.—United Press.

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I'M NOT A BIT CURIOUS—ALL I WANT IS TO GET OUT OF THIS PLACE ALIVE!

IT IS TOO LATE FOR THAT!—WE SPANARDS EITHER LOVE OR HATE WITH THE FIERY PASSION—

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BIRTH

FWLER.—To Joyce, wife of F. A. Fowler, a daughter, Shirley Lillian, Kowloon Hospital, 16th December, 1947.

THE BIG FOUR BREAKDOWN

The real issue in the collapse of the Four Power Conference, is not so much German economic unity in the abstract as the problem of what to do with a Germany half of which is in the course of being geared into the Marshall Plan while the other half will be expected to wreck, oppose and sabotage that plan at every point. Under these conditions, there are only two ways in which German economic unity could be secured by agreement of all occupying Powers. One would be that the whole of Germany should be excluded from the Marshall Plan, the other that the whole of Germany should be included. The first policy would strike a blow at the whole conception of the Marshall Plan. If the plan claims to be more than a co-ordinated dole, the claim rests on what it can do to promote the growth of a real community of interest, political and economic, in Western Europe, and for this the participation of Germany or at least Western Germany is completely and obviously essential. As to the second policy, imagination haggles at the task of devising a method by which the Russians would both keep a voice in German affairs and allow their own zone to become an integral part of a plan they believe to be aimed against them. In fact, to state the dilemma bluntly, it left no hope of settlement, no margin for adjustment on either side. Yet the breakdown need not too greatly disturb the Western powers so long as they remember it is not the final phase. Since the Marshall offer was made, a new factor has entered into the negotiations—recovery of economic initiative by the West—and provided the Western powers pursue their objective of Western economic revival with absolute single-mindedness they will find that opportunities for further parleying with the Russians will create themselves. The objectives of Mr. V.M. Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Commissar, in this meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers were very plain. He did not expect agreement on any of the major issues. And on the two issues which might have been settled at this meeting he did not want a settlement. He does not want an Austrian treaty yet. For he does not want to withdraw Soviet troops from Austria or Hungary or Rumania. And he thinks, moreover, that by holding on he can get better terms—from the Soviet point of view—out of allies anxious to withdraw their garrisons and Austrians anxious to see an end of occupation and the partition of their country. Nor does he want for the present the one, and supremely important, step towards German unity which could be carried out immediately and effectively—the "breaking down of the zonal barriers." He could not openly oppose this: so he adopted the rather transparent device of insisting on linking an agreement to open zonal boundaries with an agreement on reparations—of which he knew there was no chance this session. That raises another point that needs to be borne in mind. This was not a session to end all sessions, at least there is no greater evidence of it than that the last was the war to end all wars. There is, for instance, the American suggestion of a meeting between Stalin, Acheson and Truman, to devise an agreement which would supersede those of Potsdam, Yalta and the remainder. Moreover, the Council of Foreign Ministers is a permanent body. Mr. Marshall's action in calling for the adjournment of the London meeting was undoubtedly largely motivated by a desire to permit further thought upon the whole

THE ARABS PREPARE FOR WAR

And Three Jewish Armies Are Ready To Face Them

By
**O'Dowd
 Gallagher**

"V-Day for Europe," ran an Irgun Zvai Leumi slogan coined during the war, "is D-Day for us."

And the recent proclamation by Islam of a holy war on Jewry meant that H-hour had arrived for Palestine's Jews.

Three separate organisations fight Jewry's battle in this unhappy land—Irgun, Haganah, and the Fighters for the Freedom of Israel (commonly known as the Stern Gang).

It is reported that they may now all join forces against the Arabs.

HAGANAH was formed in the days of the Turkish dominion over Palestine to protect outlying Jewish communities from bandit attack, and developed, after the first world war, into a semi-trained force of volunteers who protected the Jewish community from fierce Moslem townsmen in 1929.

Wingate's Squads

By the time the Arabs were ready to break into revolt, in 1936, Haganah numbered about 1,500 armed volunteers, "built around a small number of supernumerary police constables recruited from Jewish farmers."

Under the late Orde Wingate, then a captain of artillery, Haganah received what would now be called Commando training, and scores of young Jews saw active service on the famous oil pipeline patrols carried out by Wingate's "Night Squads."

Among those who distinguished themselves was a young man named David Reziel.

After the Arab revolt petered out in 1939, following the intervention of the Kings of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, giving the rebels an opportunity to lay down their arms without humiliation, the British Colonial Minister, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, issued a White Paper on Palestine policy.

So Irgun Began

This limited Jewish immigration to 75,000 over a period of five years, after which no more Jewish immigrants were to be allowed unless the Palestine Arabs agreed to it.

The Jews were furious. David Reziel, followed by some 600 other young Haganah men, split off and formed the Irgun Zvai Leumi, or National Military Organisation, dedicated to the principle that the British Forces in Palestine were here illegally because the White Paper was a breach of the mandate given to Britain by the League of Nations.

100 Years
 Ago

(From the files of the "China Mail")

There was an ill report here, current on Saturday last, that the Chinese of this place had concerted a rising simultaneously with the one on the part of the mob of Canton, who were to have set fire to the Factories and cut off the Residents. It was reported that double guards had been placed on all the outposts, and the Chinese taken out to practice and afterwards marched through the town by way of a demonstration.

We have been at some pains to trace the report, and find it to have been altogether groundless.

The sentries were not doubled at any station, and the marching of the Rifles through the town had nothing whatever in it of a political character. A procession was pursued by the Police and turned out to be an ordinary Chinese funeral.

The times are undoubtedly dangerous and eventful, and no precaution should be omitted on the part of our authorities to secure life and property in this island.

The Chinese, cowardly as they are, will run any risk if you will only give them an opportunity of carrying it through by surprise, in the effects of which they are devout believers.

The establishment of a strong police station at East Point, in the godowns which formerly belonged to Fergusson, Leighton & Co., appears very judicious, as mounted orderlies may thus constantly scour the road to the eastward, up to the limits of the carriage drive.

problem in the various chancelleries, including the Politburo in Moscow, in the expectation that re-examination, plus intervening events, might compel the necessary spirit of compromise. The thing to do now is to accept the Soviet thesis of a divided world, and to work independent in the Western sphere towards economic recovery. In no other direction does any hope lie.

The Irgun began a campaign of violence against the British, but it was restricted to bombings and shootings on the day the White Paper was officially promulgated and during a few weeks afterwards.

Death In The Desert

In September 1939 Haganah had concluded an agreement with the Irgun to cease operations while Britain was engaged against the Nazis, Jewry's supreme enemy.

David Reziel, accompanied by three of his lieutenants, lost their lives in a vain chase after the exiled Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin el-Husseini, in Iraq.

Reports that Iraqi guards tortured the three Jews to death have never been confirmed.

THE STERN GANG was born a few months after the outbreak of war when Abraham Stern, a school-teacher from Italy, decided that the Palestine problem was one of great simplicity—throw the British out and all would be satisfactory.

Caring nothing for the British war effort against the Nazis at that time, he broke away from Haganah and the Irgun and formed his own unit, which still operates, although Stern was cornered and killed while trying to escape from the British police in 1941.

Heritage Of Hate

His followers are still dedicated to the belief that Jewry's only enemies are the British.

To that end they are prepared to go to any lengths in co-operating with any nation or group of nations. It is sometimes said that they receive money, for instance, from the U.S.S.R.

It is even said that they have been supplied with recruits by Russia from Eastern Europe.

Irgun swung into post-war action with an attack on C.I.D. headquarters in Jerusalem on Christmas Day, 1945. Terrorism continued throughout the spring.

At the same time Haganah attacked British radar stations on Mount Carmel overlooking Haifa. Then Mr. Attlee declared that illegal armies must be dissolved in Palestine before the British Government would consider the implementation of the recommendations of the Anglo-American Committee of on-the-spot fact-finders.

Haganah attacked frontier bridges in co-operation with the Stern and Irgun groups.

It was considered at this time that the Jewish Agency

was intimately involved in this show of force by Haganah, and, as a result, British troops and police occupied the Jewish Agency's headquarters at dawn on June 29, arrested many of its leaders, and began wide searches of Jewish settlements for Haganah arms.

From then onwards a state approaching war continued between Irgun and the British security forces.

Haganah played little active part. But on July 23, 1946, the dynamiting of the King David Hotel by the Irgun killed more than 100 British, Arab, and Jewish officials and civilians.

According to Irgun, they had previously had permission from the Haganah to go ahead with the King David operation, following the British occupation of the Jewish Agency headquarters.

At the beginning of this year official Jewish opinion began to harden against the terrorist groups, and last spring the first signs were seen of Haganah action against Irgun.

The hanging by the Irgun of Sergeant's Palace and Martin in a wood near Nathanya last July came as a climax to Irgun outrages.

Under One Flag

Despite the running amok of British personnel in Tel-Aviv that same night, with the killing of five Jewish civilians and the wounding or injury of another 15, a wave of revulsion shook the population.

Irgun activity ceased for a while, except for the attack with a Heath Robinsonian "land-torpedo" on Haifa police headquarters at the end of September.

During the past weeks, however, there have been reports that a united command of Haganah, Irgun, and the Stern Gang is to be set up, empowered to act against any Arab move to employ force in defiance of the UNO partition plan.

It is said that this move is delayed by the refusal of Menachem Beigrin, Irgun leader, to accept the subordinate role offered to him by Haganah.

On the other hand, the Stern Gang, dedicated to the ousting of Britain from Palestine, might seem to be preparing for dissolution.

For the time being, at any rate, the Stern Gang is reported to have decided to suspend their sporadic campaign of personal assassination in order not to give the British any excuse for staying in Palestine.

Irgun remains the greatest threat to peace in Palestine, during and after any British evacuation.

In the eyes of Jewish Agency leaders the fear is real that Irgun, once the British withdraw, can come out into the open and act as S.S. men, using the same tactics against the Jewish electorate as they use against the British.

CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



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BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

By SHEPARD BARCLAY

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WHICH ONE USES IT?

Effectiveness of the Blackwood convention depends often on which of the partners uses it to inquire about the honors opposite him. The information about the total number of aces held by the side—or perhaps kings—may be much more useful to one of the pair than to the other. Ordinarily the deciding factor is the amount of trick-taking material, exclusive of top cards, in each hand. The fellow with the larger total assets of other kinds is generally in the more favorable position to determine the gross resources of the entire pair, and hence more qualified to select the contract.

S. K. Q. J. 8. 6. 4.
 H. Q. J.
 D. Q. J. 10.
 C. 10. 5.

S. 9. 3.
 H. K. 10. 6. 5.
 D. 9. 6. 2.
 C. J. 9. 4. 2.

S. 10. 5.
 H. 9. 7. 4. 2.
 D. 7. 5.
 C. K. Q. 8. 6. 3.

S. A. 7. 2.
 H. A. 3. 3.
 D. A. K. 8. 4. 3.
 C. A. 7.

(Dealer: South. Both sides vulnerable).

South West North East
 1. 1 D Pass 18 Pass
 2. 2 NT Pass 48 Pass
 3. 4 NT Pass 5 C Pass
 4. 5 NT Pass 6 D Pass
 5. 6 S Pass 15 Pass
 6. 3 D Pass 7 NT Pass
 7. 5 NT Pass 7 NT Pass

There were as many different bidding sequences on this big hand as there were tables in the duplicate where it was dealt, but everybody of course wound up in some kind of a slam. Those who got into 6-Spades, with bidding about like that in the North-South tabulation, were tied for the

worst North-South scores. Those who got into 6-No Trumps ranked just above them. Beating these came the pairs which reached 7-Spades. And on top of them all was the one pair which got into 7-No Trumps by the bidding shown in No. 2 above. Since every declarer took all 13 tricks, the bidding decided the entire issue.

Notice what a difference was caused by South's second bid at the two tables. Where he bid 2-No Trumps to show his strength, North had no sure way to show at once that his hand was better than minimum, also his suit, except by hopping to game. The Blackwood 4-No Trumps here could only elicit useless information about North's lack of aces, and the second Blackwood bid of 5-No Trumps only showed one king. So the suit slam was all South could safely try. But where the 3-Diamonds bid was followed by North finding out about South's four aces, North had so much unshown strength of other kinds that he took slight risk in bidding the biggest of all possible slams.

Tomorrow's Problem

S. A. J. 6.
 H. A. K. 4.
 D. A. 10. 5.
 C. A. K. Q. J. 9.

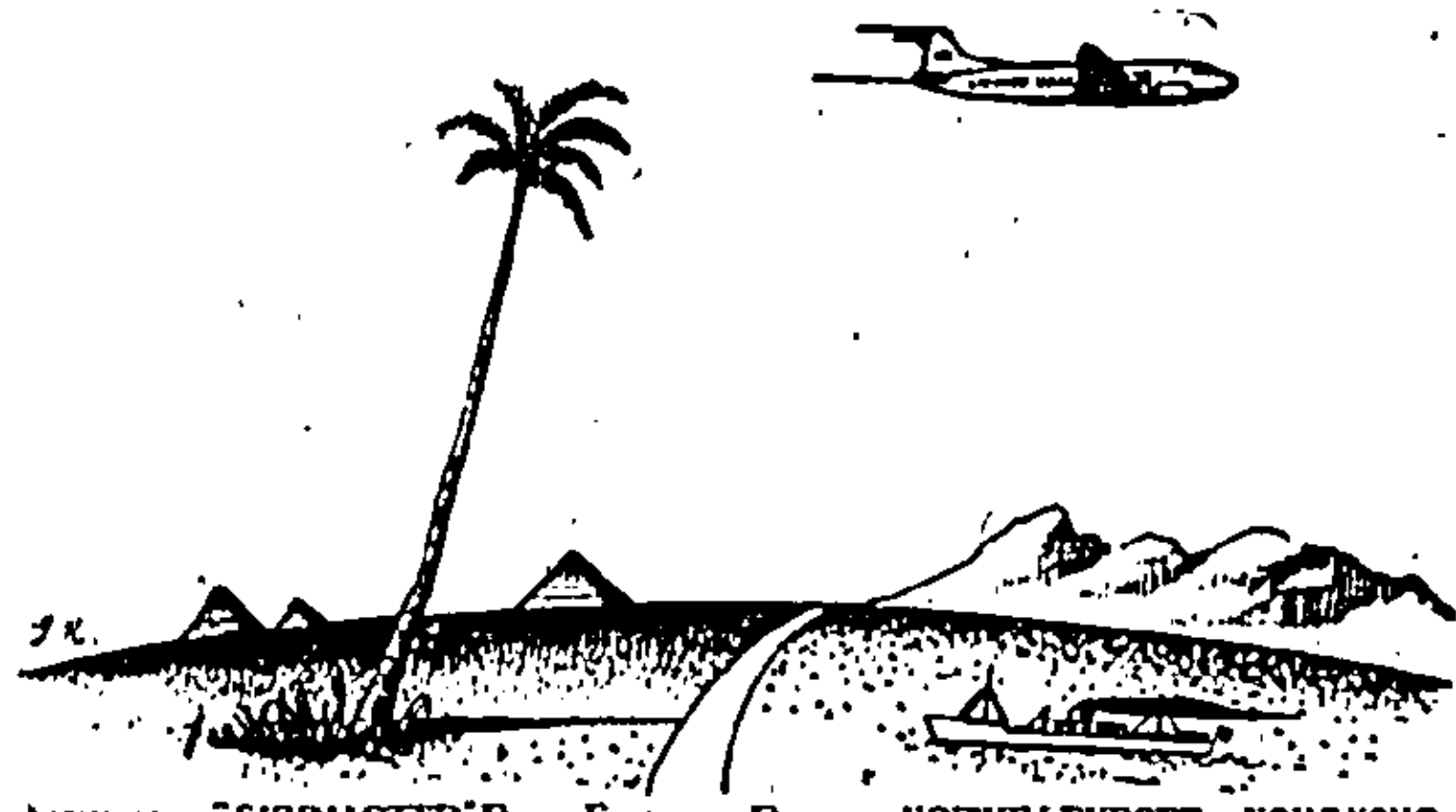
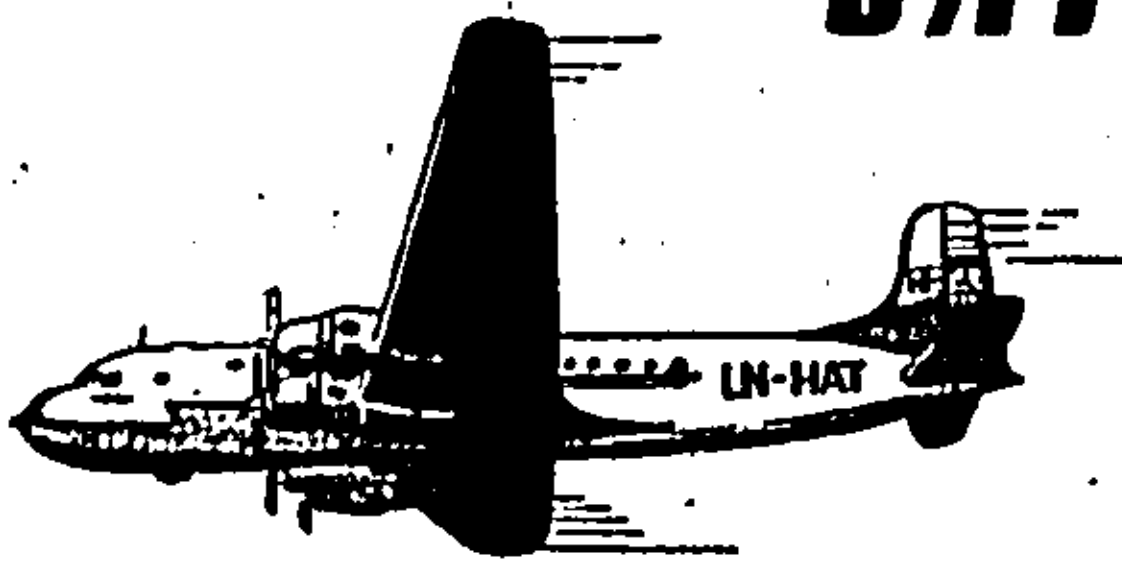
S. K. 4.
 H. 7.
 D. J. 9. 8.
 C. 4. 8. 7. 5.

S. Q. J. 5.
 H. Q. 5. 3.
 D. K. Q. 7. 5. 2.
 C. 6. 4.

(Dealer: North. Neither side vulnerable).

If East leads the heart 7, how can that mark the winning way, for North to play for 7-No Trumps?

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COLLAPSE OF BIG FOUR British Cabinet To Discuss New Situation German People Anxious And Depressed

London, Dec. 17.

The collapse of the Big Four conference will probably be discussed by the British Cabinet at its meeting on Thursday. The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, is expected to make a statement on the subject in the House of Commons before Parliament adjourns for the Christmas recess.

Mr. Oliver Stanley on behalf of the Conservative Opposition, today asked the Government whether such a statement would be forthcoming, and there is a belief in certain quarters that the Conservatives may yet go further and ask for a pre-recess debate.

The British Cabinet fully discussed its attitude towards the main issues to be raised at the Foreign Ministers conference before the talks opened and the understanding was that, if circumstances changed, Mr. Bevin would come back to the Cabinet for fresh instructions.

The general feeling among British political observers tonight is that Britain and the United States will have to do what they can to make "Bizonia" a success, and will try to create a 'bizonal area by negotiations with France.

German Anxiety

Worldwide reaction today to the conference adjournment as reported in Reuter dispatches included: Germany:—The Premiers of eight States of British and American zones, meet in Frankfurt at the end of the week to discuss the future German constitution, and it is possible that British and American commanders will be back from London in time to join the German Premiers' discussions.

German newspapers expressed the depression and anxiety felt over the future. An executive of the German Social Democrat Party in Hanover today described an American report that the Social Democrats were intending to start negotiations with the Christian Democratic Union for the creation of a Western State constitution as "wrong in every respect."

Dr. Kurt Schumacher, stated: "As everybody who thinks like a German had foreseen, the London conference proved that not the German wish for unity but the balance of power among the victorious nations is decisive for Germany's immediate future."

Reports abroad that two leading Western parties are going to bring about a Western German Government are wrong on every point. Responsibility for this must be put on the powers that participated in the London conference. It is not right to place the responsibility on Germans for the consequences of the disagreement in London.

He expressed his Party's hope that the adjournment would mean an East-West break in Germany and the world, and declared that despite their severity, the Russian demands which led to the cessation of the talks, "should not be considered an insoluble problem."

Russia: Moscow blamed a secret plan by the British and Americans to make the Soviet Union responsible for the failure of the London conference.

There was widespread disappointment among the Russian people, a Reuter dispatch from Moscow said. Psychologically, the fact that Mr. George Marshall, whose name is linked with the "notorious" plan, led the American delegation, caused suspicion here from the start that the Americans, British and French planned to wreck any agreement.

U.S. Suggestion

America: Some American observers suggested that a Truman-Attlee-Stalin meeting be held. They argued that Generalissimo Stalin in his interview with Mr. Marshall earlier this year, made it clear that only after the Foreign Ministers had exhausted all avenues of compromise, could the heads of the States seek an agreement as a last resort.

France: The French newspapers, except those of the Communists, blamed M. Molotov for the breakdown. Le Monde, the Conservative journal which often reflects the French Foreign Office views, said: "France has no choice but to cast in her lot with Britain and the United States in the administration of Western Germany."

Vienna: Dr. Leopold Figl, the Austrian Chancellor and Foreign Minister, expressing his regret in the Austrian Cabinet meeting today at the failure of the Foreign Ministers Conference said: "The Austrian people and their Government will not change their determination to fight for the sovereignty of Austria."

Berlin: Neither M. Molotov nor Marshal Sokolovsky made any statement on the arrival in Berlin today, though high officials of the Soviet inspired German Socialist Unity Party, were gathered at the airport to meet them.

It is thought probable here that Marshal Sokolovsky will also go to Moscow to report either with M. Molotov or shortly afterwards.

French View

The French Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, holds out hopes of continued Big Four cooperation.

Speaking at a press conference here—first of the four leading participants to comment on the new situation—M. Bidault said: "It is my desire to leave the door open for all possible attempts at an overall settlement."

M. Bidault was replying to the question of whether the three western powers should now proceed to a settlement without Russia.

Asked if there would be another session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, M. Bidault said: "No date has been fixed but the institution exists for always and this is one of the good things one can find in the Potsdam Agreement."

No plans have been made for talks between Mr. Bevin, Mr. Marshall and M. Bidault before the departure of the two visitors, expected within the next 48 hours. Despite these official declarations, usually well-informed quarters in London believe that the three Ministers may meet tomorrow to make immediate decisions on the future of Western Germany, writes Reuters Diplomatic Correspondent.

Merger Issue

Asked whether France will join the other two western zones, M. Bidault said today that a merger was possible but not inevitable or imperative.

"There may be a merger which is profitable for France and one which is not. I will choose the profitable one," he declared. The treaty between the three western powers for the disarmament of Germany had not yet been discussed, he said, but such a long term guarantee was of major importance to France.

M. Bidault listed four other guarantees which France hoped for—the economic detachment of the Saar, a federal regime for Germany, a special regime for the Rhineland, and the international control of the Ruhr.

Authoritative London quarters tonight made it clear that the collapse of the conference will in no way affect the impending trade agreement between Britain and Russia, Reuter's Political Correspondent writes.

This is regarded as purely a commercial agreement not affected by political issues.—Reuter.

No Proposal Made

London, Dec. 16.

A spokesman of the Foreign Office said today that no proposal for a three-power security pact had been made by the British, French and American Governments.

The spokesman also denied reports that a three-power conference to discuss economic problems for West Germany had already been arranged to take place in Washington on January 15.—Reuter.

China Sticks To Policy

Nanking, Dec. 17.

The Foreign Minister, Dr. Wang Shih-chieh, at the Executive Yuan meeting yesterday, said that China's stand on the Far Eastern peace conference and the four-power veto right was unchanged, despite the British note of Dec. 13.

Up to the present, China has insisted on an 11-power—now 12 with the inclusion of Pakistan—preliminary conference to be

Basis Of Plan For Germany

Frankfurt, Germany, Dec. 16.

The principal political leaders of the Anglo-American zones of Germany agreed today on a basic plan for creation of a Western Germany.

They met behind closed doors without the Communists.

The session met on the breakdown of the Foreign Ministers conference in London. Attending were the leaders of the Christian Social Union, the Social Democrats, and Liberal Democrats.

They accepted an invitation to confer with the Anglo-American zonal commanders, probably on Saturday.

Out of this conference may emerge a political organization for the combined zones, to which the French zone may be added later. At any rate, the Germans expect to learn just how far they can go. The German leaders have mapped a detailed campaign designed to combat Soviet propaganda and influence in Germany.

The campaign is designed to win the support of 17,000,000 Germans in the Russian zone away from Communism.

Their plans call for a democratically-elected Government dedicated to "western ideas and principles of freedom." They

SETBACK FOR UNO

Lake Success, Dec. 16.

United Nations diplomats today viewed the breakdown of the Big Four Foreign Ministers conference as a setback for the stricken United Nations.

Diplomats maintain that world organizations cannot really work until the great Powers settle the peace and put their signatures on the German and Japanese treaties.

United Nations observers pointed to the futility of debating important issues like selection of the governor of Trieste, or international atomic energy control, or warfare in Indonesia so long as the Russians and Americans and British or the French feel compelled to use such issues in their bigger battle over the peace treaties.

The London failure even heightened the scepticism in some circles about apparent American-Russian harmony on Palestine that made possible the General Assembly decision to divide the Holy Land between Jews and Arabs.—United Press.

CHIANG'S GIFTS

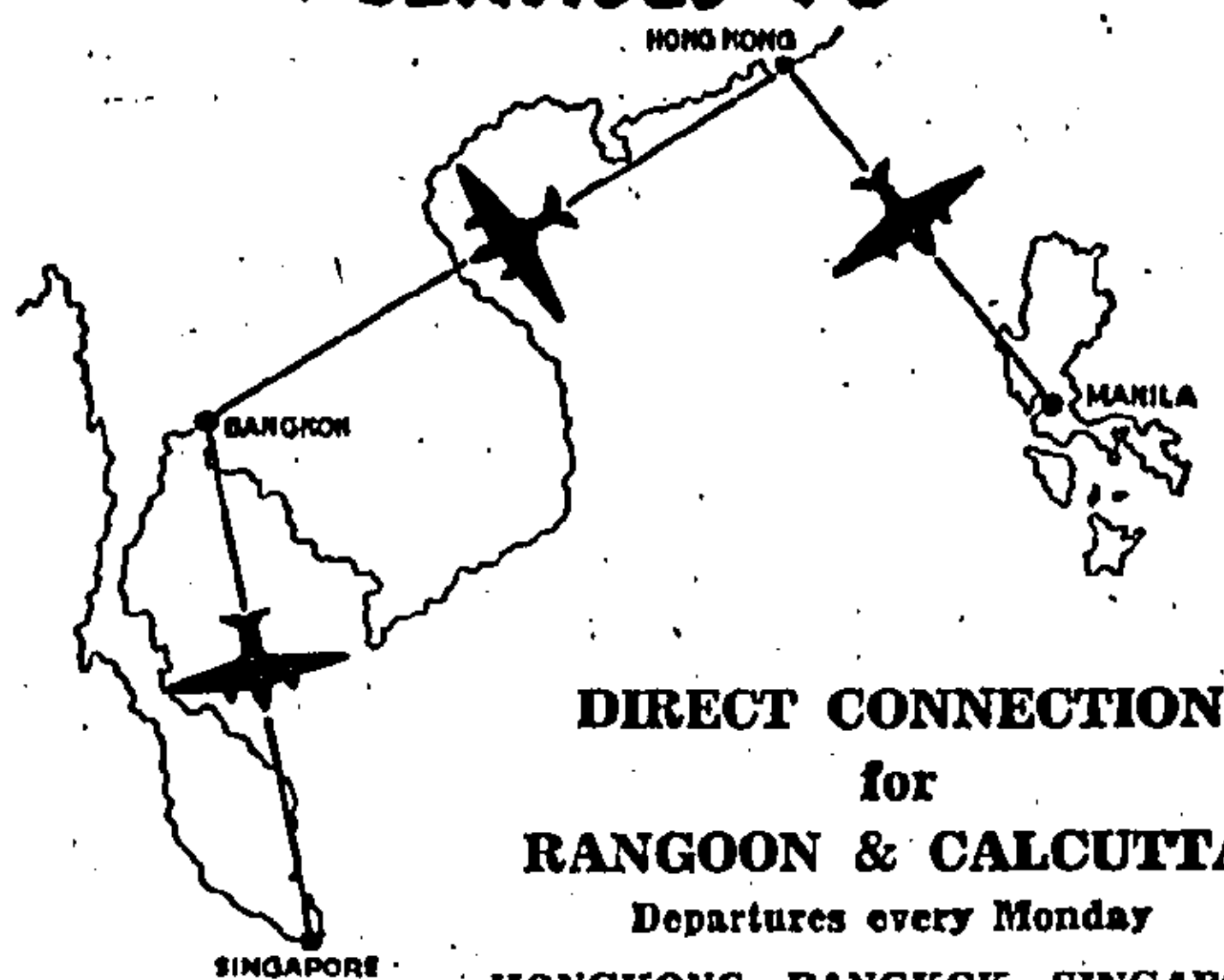
Nanking, Dec. 17.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has bought 200 silk handkerchiefs costing more than CN\$14,000,000 for distribution among the Army Advisory Group as Christmas gifts, each embroidered with the character "Chiang." It was reported today.—United Press.

followed by a full conference of the 11 powers and the four major powers, namely Russia, the United States, Britain and China, the latter still retaining veto rights under the United Nations Charter.—Reuter.

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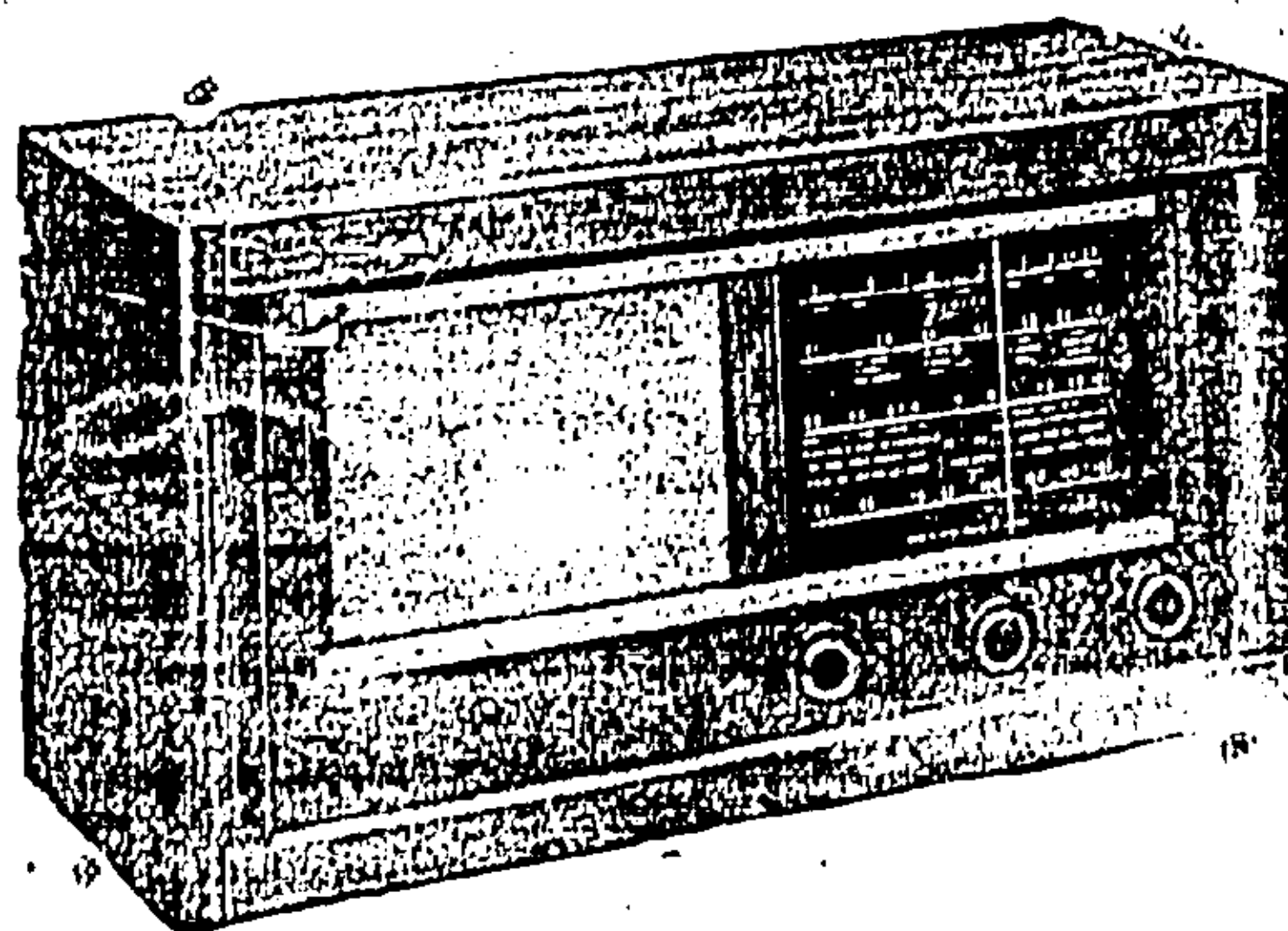
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WOES OF U.S. STEEL INDUSTRY

The woes of the harassed American steel industry has been magnified by higher freight rates, rising scrap prices and the "salting" of scrap material, according to "Iron Age," metal-working weekly.

Granting of emergency freight rate boosts, the publication adds, means that "a further withdrawal by steel firms from distant markets is a certainty because present steel-making costs will not stand too much of an increase in freight absorption by steel companies."

A few scrap dealers are reported to have put concrete, dirt and other foreign matter into steel scrap. This has been loaded into presses which bale sheet steel into No. 2 steel bundles, which bring the same price as heavy melting steel. So serious has the practice become that responsible scrap men have strongly protested with a warning that it poses a threat to the entire scrap industry.

"At one steel mill alone it was indicated that 10,000 tons of steel were lost as a result of 'foreign matter' in banded scrap. Since this producer has been making his steel from a charge including about 60 per cent hot metal and 25 per cent scrap generated in his plant, the high ratio of foreign matter in some of the bundles bought on the outside was particularly obvious."

Most steel consumers, the Weekly added, "are behind the 'light-bell' so far as their December steel supplies are concerned. Many companies have made substantial reductions in the quotas they set up originally for the final 1947 quarter, and many large fabricators will not get the steel supplies they were promised some time ago."

Customers have three alternatives, in view of the rapidly diminishing steel deliveries: (1) they can turn to the gray market; (2) arrange for conversion by buying ingots or semi-finished steel, or (3) choose a substitute.

The gray market and conversion deals, the weekly said, "are now being played to the limit. Metal consumers are now realizing that the only undeveloped source with which they can augment their supplies lies in the replacement of steel by other products—and aluminium is being no slouch in this situation."

—United Press.

Unique Service For Buyers

A unique service for buyers in search of oil engines is provided by a catalogue issued by the British Internal Combustion Engine Manufacturers' Association.

The catalogue is primarily a scientific and technical reference book which lists and classifies 2,000 different engines. It sets out to offer each oil engine on a basis of what the customer needs and avoids boasting any one maker's design or trade mark. It is the first time that makers have combined in such an enterprise.

In all, 33 firms from all parts of the United Kingdom have combined to offer overseas buyers factual information on the types of engines available from British workshops. They have pooled their knowledge of the trade to make a catalogue despite the fact that they are among the most highly competitive businesses in the country.

Sir Lynden Macassey, Independent Chairman of the Association, describes the issue of the list as a step towards overcoming the difficulty that, in the past, the British Government has not been able to guarantee delivery. In the past the Government has been able merely to refer overseas buyers to separate manufacturers. This catalogue goes far to meet the problem.

Sir Lynden pointed out that the supremacy of British engineers in this field is illustrated by the fact that no less than 92½ per cent of the total value of production of the internal combustion engine industry goes into the export market.

Two 100 K.W. short-wave transmitters are to be installed at Moerby in South Sweden at a cost of more than £110,000 by the Maycon Wireless Telegraph Company of Chelmsford. Sweden has recently placed a contract with the British Marconi Company for transmitters for communication with European and American long and short wave telegraph countries.

Light alloy is also used extensively in the Triumph Roadster, a much smaller car with a four-cylinder engine of only 1,800 cc. By virtue, however, of weighing little more than a ton (21.5 cwt.) and an engine which gives 68 BHP, the overall power/weight ratio comes

out at 58 BHP per long ton, a figure which gives it a highly acceptable road performance. Outstanding acceleration and hill climbing ability are provided by a number of specialised high performance cars which have been recently introduced. Chief among these are the Bristol, Healey, Lagonda and Riley. The Bristol and Lagonda have six-cylinder engines of 2-litre and 2½-litre capacity developing 85 and 105 BHP respectively.

The Bristol 1½-litre engine is developing over 120 BHP while the 4½-litre power units used by Rolls-Royce and Bentley develop between 125 and 135 BHP.

The first two are not specially designed as high performance motorcars, but it is not uninteresting to observe that both of them offer over 60 BHP per long ton, the ratio being virtually unaltered if considered in relation to 1,000 kilograms. Despite these relatively favourable figures the stiffness and rigidity of the cars has not been sacrificed. Materials have, of course, been very closely studied in order to obtain the best strength/weight characteristics.

It is notable also that the Austin is offered with composite wood and light alloy body which results in a very material weight saving. The latest methods of production are used in this car. The wood in the body structure is specially treated and the latest type of artificial resins ("plastics") are used in place of ordinary glue so that the whole is impervious to rot and atmospheric attack.

Kirkite

The technique was developed during the war in the construction of the world-famous 'Do Havilland Mosquito, an aircraft which, despite its small size and twin engines, undertook night raids on Berlin, travelling at such speed that losses were extremely low. The shell of the Austin is made from light alloy panels which are formed by metal Kirkite dies. The latter is a non-ferrous alloy of low melting point which can be cast with such exactness that machining of the dies is unnecessary. It is, therefore, possible advantageously to use pressings even on cars made in limited quantities and where capital cost had previously been prohibitive.

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The introduction of newly designed motorcars has been delayed in Britain by the paramount need to secure maximum output. This has governed policy. It has been equally important to reduce the gap between demand and supply in the home market as to obtain foreign currency to counterbalance imports and the loss of previously-existing overseas investments. Yet during the two years that have passed since the end of World War II, 14 entirely new designs of cars have been produced in Britain varying in size from models of 1,200 cc. to 4½ litres capacity.

A notable characteristic of the majority of these new types has been a combination of high-power output with moderate weight, a sure guarantee of fine performance, and an insurance against unreliability and rapid wear. Austin, Rolls-Royce, and Bentley are notable examples of large cars following this trend.

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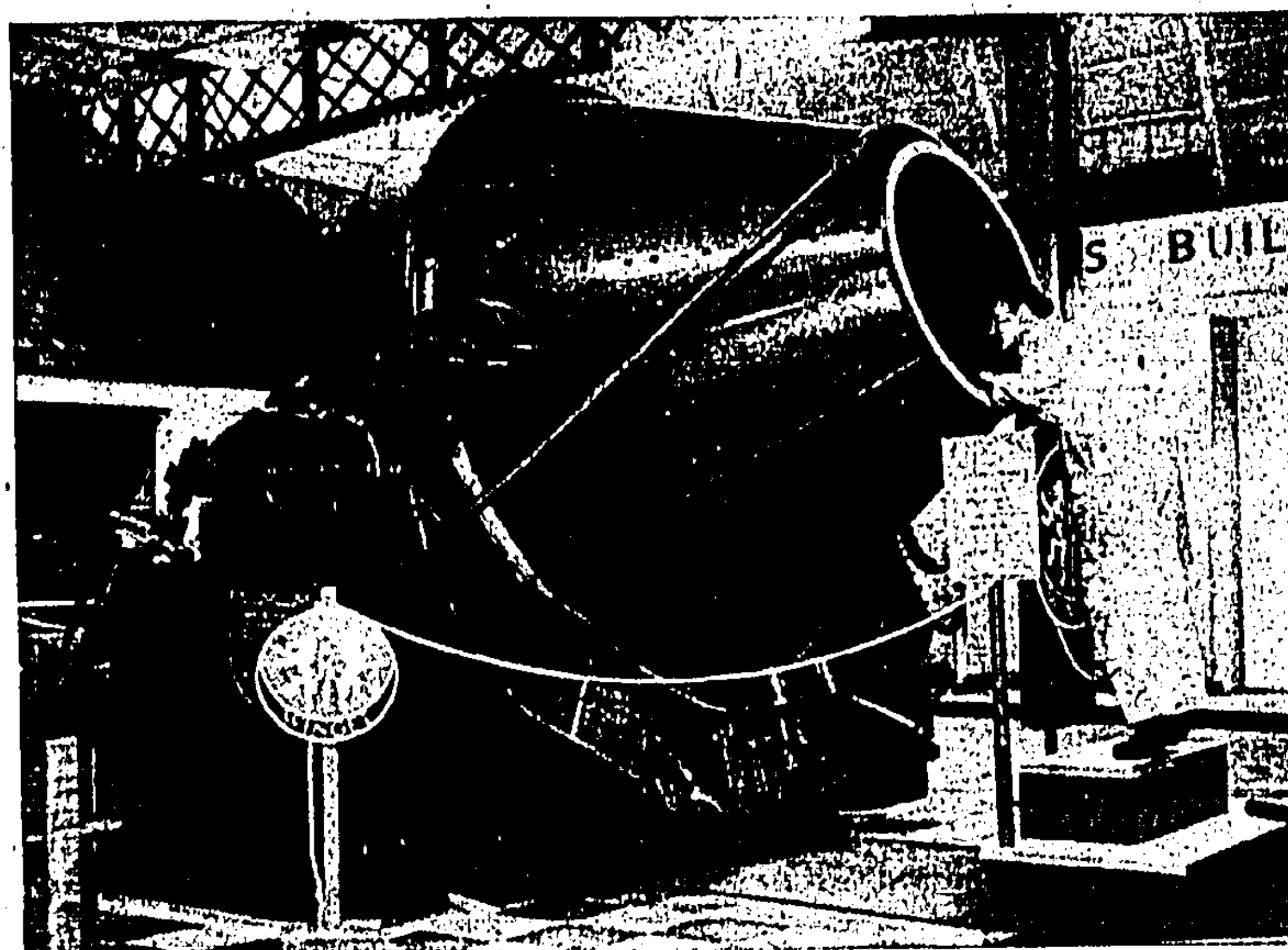
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Giant Concrete Mixer



Among the exhibits at the Building Exhibition now being held at Olympia is this giant 10-ton concrete mixer made by Winget, of Rochester. This is the biggest concrete mixer manufactured in Britain and gives an output of 3 cubic yards of concrete per batch. (Photo by Arthur Jones).

Power And Weight

The introduction of newly designed motorcars has been delayed in Britain by the paramount need to secure maximum output. This has governed policy. It has been equally important to reduce the gap between demand and supply in the home market as to obtain foreign currency to counterbalance imports and the loss of previously-existing overseas investments. Yet during the two years that have passed since the end of World War II, 14 entirely new designs of cars have been produced in Britain varying in size from models of 1,200 cc. to 4½ litres capacity.

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40 to 60 MPH in 8.9 secs., and the Healey in 8.5. The maximum speeds of the cars are in round figures 105 and 117 MPH respectively.

The merits of these figures can be well assessed by comparing them with the large American type of vehicle which has, not unjustifiably, established world standards in these directions. An example with an engine of 4.4-litres capacity and using twelve cylinders took over 14 secs. to reach 60 MPH from rest, accelerated from 40 to 60 MPH in 8 secs., and returned a maximum speed of 87 MPH.

The Jowett

The new Jowett Javelin is an outstanding example. The 1½-litre engine gives 50 BHP, the car weighs 19½ cwt., and therefore offers 52 BHP per ton. This model reaches 60 MPH in 20 secs. and takes 13.2 secs. to traverse the range 40-60 MPH in top gear.

Although these are substantially greater times than on the more powerful models, the smaller car offers the advantage of remarkably low fuel consumption. Even when driven at the relatively high speed of 50 MPH it will do 38 miles per gallon, 29 MPG being obtained at 60 MPH. Moreover, neither performance nor economy has been secured by skimping the body dimensions for there is 67 inches between the fascia board and the back of the rear seat, with 50 inches elbow room. The hill climbing of this car is particularly good and a 10 per cent gradient can be ascended in top gear at over 50 MPH.

These figures are a remarkable example of what can be done by ability in both engine and chassis design. The former is notable for use of a flat type opposed four-cylinder engine with overhead valves and the latter for scientific combination of frame members, body panels, and body members so as to obtain maximum stiffness.

Other British constructors, large and small, are known to be following along these lines and there is no doubt that technically the industry is flourishing and in a highly go-ahead frame of mind.

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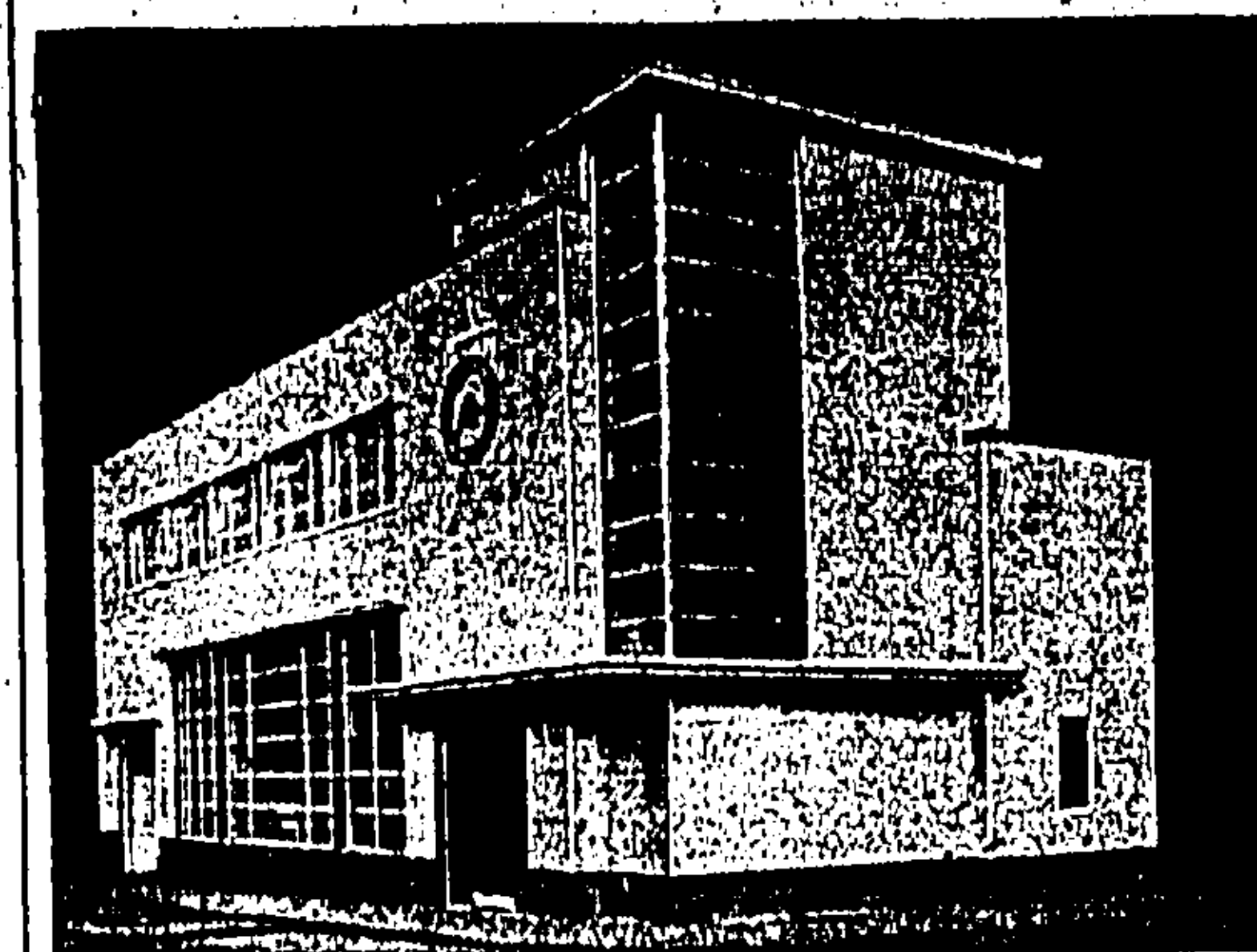
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INDONESIAN CHARGE Alleges Menace To Capital

Batavia, Dec. 16. Sufficient Dutch troops were massing in forward positions in Java to constitute a threat to the Republican capital of Jogjakarta, Amir Sjarifuddin, the Indonesian Republican Prime Minister, declared today.

He was speaking on board the U.S. Navy transport Renville, the vessel on which the Dutch-Indonesian peace negotiations under United Nations mediation, are taking place, in Batavia harbour.

He was unable to say whether the presence of Dutch troops was meant as a threat to Jogjakarta, he added, but it certainly gave the impression that something might happen in the near future.

The Indonesian Prime Minister said that he agreed with an appeal for support made today by the Republican Socialist Party to Socialists throughout Asia.

A Netherlands East Indies Government spokesman later emphatically denied that there was any concentration of Dutch troops threatening Jogjakarta.

There was no question of any new Dutch move against the Republican capital, he said.

The Netherlands News Agency reported today from the West Java, capital of Bandung that "extremists" had shot at delegates from the districts Tasik Malaya and Djambi while they were on their way to the West Java Conference, at which Indonesians, prepared to cooperate with the Dutch, were expected to seek a separate state or autonomous status for the 12,000,000 Soudanese people formerly in the Republic.

About 25 Indonesians, including some former members of the Republican Army, were temporarily arrested when they demonstrated outside the Conference hall.

West Java

Amir Sjarifuddin said that the Indonesian Republic would have to raise the West Java question with the Security Council's good offices committee if a new state was formed.

The Indonesian Prime Minister endorsed the remarks made earlier by Dr. Mohamed Roem, the Republican Minister of the Interior, that the Republican Government would ask the United Nations to conduct a plebiscite in "Dutch-created Indonesian states" if the present reconciliation efforts failed.

Today's Dutch communique accused the Republican Government of trying to obstruct and retard the negotiations while strengthening its own economic position.

Members of the good Offices commission considered that separate discussions with the Dutch and Indonesian delegations were proving the most fruitful way of settling their dispute, the Netherlands News Agency reported "authoritatively."

Answering claims that the Dutch were bringing economic pressure against the Republic, the Netherlands Government communique said that a resumption of normal trade relations with the Republic was "out of the question" while it encouraged "terrorisation and intimidation."—Reuter.

Moscow Goes Off Rationing

Moscow, Dec. 16. Soviet shops were today well stocked with foodstuffs and manufactured goods—the first day of shopping without ration books. "Be polite to the customer," Pravda, the Russian Communist Party's official newspaper, exhorted the assistants in shops and restaurants.

It stressed that "no coupons" meant competition and a desire to please.

The Soviet Government has allocated additional stocks of foodstuffs and manufactured goods to meet the expansion of unrationed trade, Tass reported.

Moscow Radio said that a greater variety of foods would be available, bigger confectionery counters and more fruits, including apples and pears.

The output of clothing, footwear and other consumer goods had almost doubled in the year.

Pravda added: "Tradesmen must in future refuse to accept sub-standard goods or things which are not much in demand. The demands on the salesman are higher now. He must not only be polite—he must work quickly and accurately, and he must know what he is selling."

"The end of rationing means the start of emulation among the trading enterprises and the winners will be those best able to satisfy the customers' requirements."—Reuter.

Government Workers On Strike

MADRAS, DEC. 15. OVER 3,000 MADRAS GOVERNMENT LOWER GRADE ("NON-GAZETTED") WORKERS WENT ON STRIKE TODAY. THEY DEMANDED PARITY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S "NON-GAZETTED" WORKERS IN PAY AND ALLOWANCES.

The Madras Secretariat itself was not affected. All its "non-gazetted" staff started work as usual but over 80 percent of the lower grades in other Government offices including the Public Works, Revenue Board, Civil Supplies and the High Court, stayed away.

Police were posted at all Government offices as a precaution but no demonstrations were reported.—Reuter.

Italy Gets A Concession

Rome, Dec. 16. Italy's fleet of submarines, which under the terms of the Italian peace treaty should have been sunk in the open sea by midnight had an eleventh hour reprieve tonight.

The Italian Foreign Office announced this afternoon that it had been informed that the "Big Four" Governments had decided to grant Italy's claim for an amendment of Article 18 (C) of the peace treaty, under which all submarines, except "except" for eight to be handed over to the Big Four, were to be sunk within three months of the treaty coming into force.

Italy ended the war with 24 of the 130 submarines with which she began it, was reported in 1945. Eighty-four were lost by Allied action.

Flying Wing In The Air

Rugby, Dec. 16. Acclaimed as the most advanced type of research aircraft in the world, the Armstrong Whitworth jet-propelled flying wing made its first flight in public from an airfield near here today.

The highly polished plane is powered by two Rolls Royce engines, has a wingspan of 90 feet, fully laden take-off weight of 33,000 pounds and cost £200,000 to produce.—Reuter.

Family Xmas On The Rhine

London, Dec. 16. Soldiers serving in the Rhine Army will have a "family" Christmas this year under a War Office scheme to send 727 children to the British Army of the Occupation of the Rhine and Austria.

All children have been at school while their parents were living in Germany. They are aged between six and 18. Those whose fathers have years of further service in the Rhine army and who have not been before will have their return fares paid by the Government.

Children who do not come within this category will have their fares paid by their fathers.—Reuter.

He Gave The Wrong Injection

London, Dec. 16. A doctor, who claimed that he has given more than 20,000 injections during the 17 years he has specialised in varicose vein treatment, injected a patient with the wrong drug, which killed him within two minutes.

This was revealed at a Hammersmith inquest on Frank Edward Muggridge, 42, a tobacconist of Dale Street, Chatham, who collapsed and died in the surgery of Dr. Reginald Simpson Harvey, Onslow Gardens, Kensington.

The doctor said he injected the man's leg with adrenalin, a heart stimulant, in mistake for etalate.

Asked how the bottle of adrenalin got into the carton marked "etalate," the doctor said: "I had lost the bottle of adrenalin two weeks ago. I always keep it in my bag but couldn't find it there. I can only think that this bottle was on my desk and as the bottles of adrenalin and etalate are identical that it was dropped into the carton."

A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded.—Reuter.

Last British Troops Leave Italy

Southampton, Dec. 16. The transport Taos Victory, which had on board 479 men of the 1st Battalion of the Essex Regiment, the last British troops to leave Italy, where they had served for 15 months.

The Essex Regimental band played on the quayside as the ship docked and the battalion was welcomed home by Brigadier G.H. Wilmer, Colonel of the Regiment.

The battalion landed in France on D-Day and took part in campaigns which preceded the German collapse. After serving with the occupation forces they went to Trieste and moved to Venice in January this year.—Reuter.

99.8% Real dairy cream
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for MONTHS!

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ARRIVALS

SHIP	FROM	DUE
"RUBY STONE"	Japan	18th Dec.
"ORMARA"	Singapore	19th Dec.
"STRATHNAVER"	Kure	27th Dec.
"TREVVOSE"	Shanghai	22nd Dec.
"ORMARA"	Shanghai	30th Jan.
"TREVVOSE"	U.K. via Straits	13th Jan.
"TREVAYLOR"	U.K. via Straits	13th Feb.
"CANTON"	U.K. via Straits	16th Feb.

SAILINGS

SHIP	TO	SAILING
"SOCOTRA"	Genoa, Marseilles, Havre, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam (Amsterdam) via Straits & Colombo	19th Dec.
"RUBY STONE"	Bombay via Straits	20th Dec.
"TREVVOSE"	Genoa, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam (Amsterdam) via Straits & Colombo	24th Dec.
"STRATHNAVER"	U.K.	24th Dec.
"ORMARA"	Shanghai & Colombo	29th Dec.
"ORMARA"	Bombay via Straits	11th Jan.
"TREVVOSE"	Shanghai	16th Jan.
"TREVAYLOR"	Shanghai	15th Feb.
"CANTON"	U.K. via Straits	23rd Feb.

British

India

STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

APCAR LINE

ARRIVALS

SHIP	FROM	DUE
"SANGOLA"	Calcutta via Straits	31st Dec.
"SANGOLA"	Shanghai & Amoy	13th Jan.

SAILINGS

SHIP	TO	SAILING
"SANGOLA"	Amoy & Shanghai	2nd Jan.
"SANGOLA"	Calcutta via Straits	15th Jan.

Eastern & Australian

STEAMSHIP COMPANY LIMITED

ARRIVALS

SHIPS	from	Due
"NELLORE"	Australia	Mid January
"NANKIN"		Early March

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Telephone Nos. 27721-4.

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STEAMSHIP CORPORATION

MOBILE, ALA., U.S.A.

Expected arrivals from U.S. Atlantic Ports:—
S.S. "JEAN LAFITTE" In Port
S.S. "FAIRPORT" Due 6th January
S.S. "KYSKA" Due End January

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HIN, FAT & CO., LTD.
Tel: 25553, 28823 & 23463.

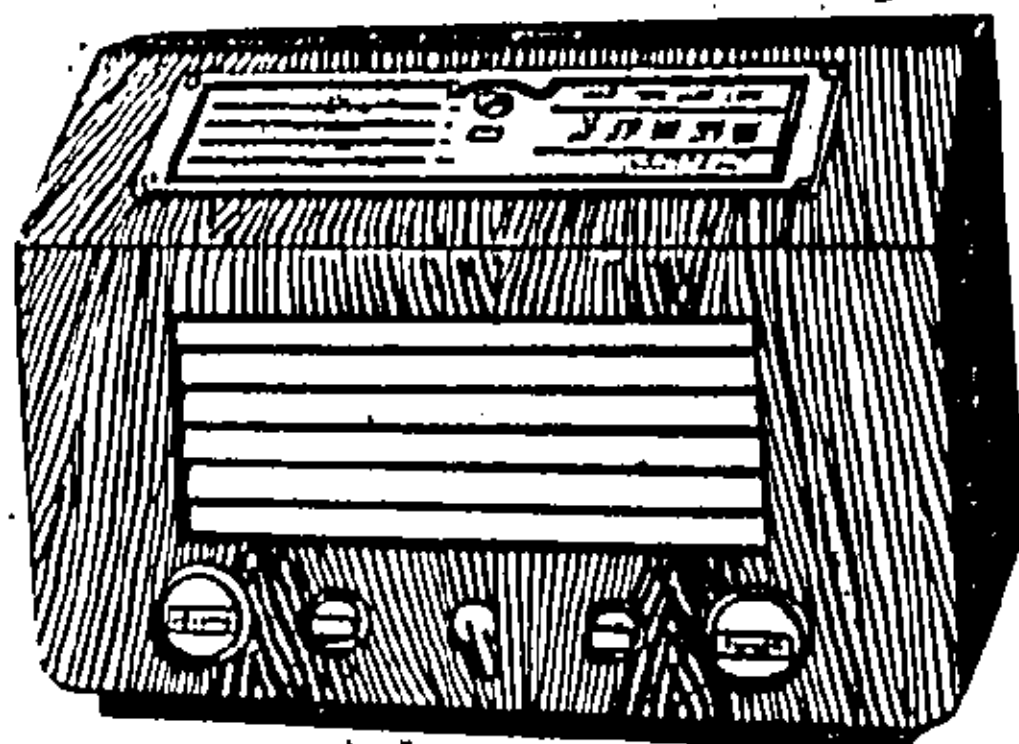
IVARAN LINES FAR EAST SERVICE.

Expected arrivals from U.S. ATLANTIC PORTS:
M.V. "IVARAN" expected arrive 24th December
Loading for U.S. ATLANTIC PORTS via PANAMA:—
M.V. "IVARAN" about 25th December

WALLEM & COMPANY

Agents: Chinese Freight Agents
HIN, FAT & CO., LTD.
Tel: 25553, 28823 & 23463.

COLUMBIA RADIOS



MODEL 5101A.

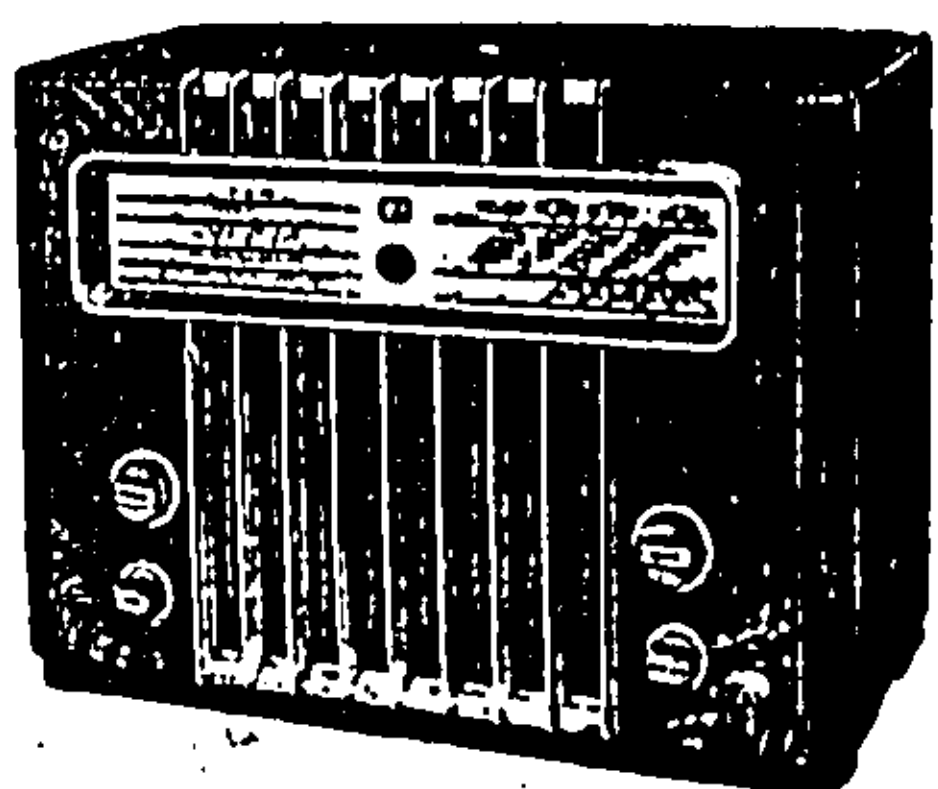
7-Valve Superhet Table Model
for A.C. Mains.



MODEL 8901

Automatic Start and Stop
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up, Using Special Silent Stylus
long Playing Needles; Adapt-
able to any Radio Set.

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MODEL 5200

6-Valve Superhet
Table Model for
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(JAVA-CHINA-PACKET LINES Ltd.)

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Chinese Agents, Connaught Road, C. No. 82, Tel. 25133

CHINA AND JAPAN LINES

"TJIBADAK" Due from Macassar and Java ports 21st December

"TJITJALENGKA" Due from Macassar and Java ports 24th Dec. Sailing for Batavia, Semarang, Surabaya & Soerabaya 31st Jan.

ORIENT-JAVA-AFRICA LINE SOUTH-ATLANTIC LINE

"STRAAT MALAKKA" Due from South America, South Africa 23rd Jan. 1948. Sailing for South America, South Africa 8th Feb. 1948.

Transshipment cargo on through bill of lading accepted for Dar-Es-Salaam, Mombasa & Zanzibar.

"STRAAT SOENDA" Due from South America, South Africa 23rd Jan. 1948. Sailing for South America, South Africa 8th Feb. 1948.

DELI-STRAITS-CHINA LINE

"VAN HEUTSZ" Due from Swatow & Amoy 23rd Dec. Sailing for Singapore, Penang & Belawan 24th Dec.

"HEINRICH JESSEN" Due from Belawan, Deli 21st Dec. Sailing for Singapore, Penang & Belawan 24th Dec.

Agents HOLLAND-EAST ASIA LINE

"BREDERO" Due from Japan & Shanghai 22nd Dec. Sailing for Manila/Singapore/Colombo/Port Said/Genoa/Marseilles/Antwerp/Rotterdam/Amsterdam/Hamburg/Copenhagen/Göteborg/Oslo 22nd Dec.

"LEOPOLDSKERK" Due from Europe, first week of Jan. 1948. Sailing for Europe, first week of Jan. 1948.

"MOLENKERK" Due from Europe, on or about 16th Jan. Sailing for Europe, on or about 16th Jan.

"ALPHERAT" Due from Europe, on or about 16th Jan. Sailing for Europe, on or about 16th Jan.

Agents SILVER LINE LTD.

"SILVEROAK" Due from Europe, on or about 16th Jan. Sailing for Europe, on or about 16th Jan.

DE LA RAMA LINES

EXPRESS CARGO LINER SERVICES
TO AND FROM PACIFIC & ATLANTIC COASTS
U.S.A. LOADING DATES

ARRIVALS

From	Date	Vessel
Atlantic Coast via Los Angeles	Mid. Jan.	m.v. "TONGHAI"
Atlantic Coast via Los Angeles	Late Jan.	m.v. "DONA ANICETA"

SAILINGS

To	Date	Vessel
Pacific Coast	27th Dec.	m.v. "MANGALORE"
Atlantic Coast via Los Angeles	Early Jan.	m.v. "ANDAMAN"
Atlantic Coast via Los Angeles	Late Jan.	s.s. "DONA AURORA"

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CHINA MERCHANTS S.N. CO.

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SAILINGS

S.S. LIN SHEN Shanghai Dec. 21

Cargo for Tung-Tao, Hankow & Tientsin acceptable on through bills of lading.

FOR FULL PARTICULARS PLEASE APPLY TO THE ABOVE

CHINESE RESTRICTIONS

H.K. Stock Exchange

There were a few scattered enquiries but prices offered were a shade lower than yesterday's closing rates.
H.K. Govt. Loans: 4% Loan 100%; 3 1/2% 101%;
Bankers H.K. & S. Bank 2010; (Lon. Sec.) 2118 1/2; Chartered Bank 211 1/2; Mercantile H.K. & S. 231 1/2; Bank of East Asia 118;
Insurance: Canton Ins. 5100; Union Ins. 760; H.K. Underwriters 44 1/2; H.K. Fire Ins. 200;
Shipping: Douglas 260; H.K. & M. Steamers 14 1/2; Indo China (Pat) 100; (Def.) 300; Shells (Becker) X. Rts. 74 1/2; U. Waterboats (Old) 46 1/2; (New) 46;
Docks, Wharves, Godowns, etc.: H.K. & K. Wharves (C. Rts.) 2100; (X. Rts.) 1500; Higha 40; H.K. Docks 82 1/2; 82 1/2; China Prospecting 22 1/2; 22 1/2; S'hai Dockyards 17 1/2; 17 1/2;
Mining: Haub Mines 5 1/2; H.K. Mines 20 1/2;
Lands, Hotels & Buildings: H. & S. Hotels 22 1/2; 22 1/2; H.K. Land (Old) 10 1/2; 10 1/2; (New) 7 1/2; H.K. Land 5 1/2; 5 1/2; Humphreys Estates 27 1/2; H.K. Estates 10 1/2; Chinese Estates 10 1/2; Public Utilities H.K. 23 1/2; 23 1/2; Peak Tram (Old) 10 1/2; (New) 10 1/2; Star Ferry 1300; Yau Yau Ferry 28 1/2; C. Light (Old) 10 1/2; 10 1/2; (New) 10 1/2; 10 1/2; 24; Sandakan Light 10 1/2; Telephones (Old) 42; (New) 37 1/2; Industries: Cold. Mfg. (Ord.) 18 1/2; (Pref.) 20; Canton Ice 31 1/2; 31 1/2; 21 1/2; 21 1/2; Cements (Old) 29 1/2; (New) 20 1/2;
Stores & Acs: Dairy Farms X. Rts. 62 1/2; Watsons 7000; Lane, Crawford 1300; H.K. 1000; China Emporium 1300; Bui Co. Ltd. 1000; Kwong Sang Hong 2000; Wing On (H.K.) 1400; Wm. Powell, Ltd. 14 1/2;
Miscellaneous: Nanyang H.K. Tab. Co. 27 1/2; China Entertainment 4 1/2; H.K. Construction (Old) 10 1/2; N.A. Chem (H.K.) 4 1/2; Vibro Filter 12 1/2; Marman Investments 1 1/2;
Cottons: Swire 13 1/2.

Discouragement To Own Nationals

Shanghai, Dec. 17: Overseas Chinese businessmen are most anxious to see the revision of existing foreign exchange regulations by the National Government. Mr. Albert Lee, a prominent Chinese business magnate from Boston, told the "China Press" that although the cause of the lack of coordination of the Chinese government is to be established, the Chinese government is to establish factories in China with their own capital, employing administrative and technical personnel in order to export China's native products to foreign countries. He said Americans like Chinese hand-manufactured articles, and is for the Chinese to supply them. However, under the present exchange regulations, not only are exports practically impossible but remittances from Overseas Chinese to the home country are discouraged. Mr. Lee said that many Overseas Chinese want to help their country and Government as much as they can but they would lose tremendously if they tried to export goods from China or back the foreign exchange under the existing regulations. His own firm, the Albert Lee Company of Boston, for instance had to put up a factory in Hongkong to manufacture goods for export to the United States as he could not do it in China.—Reuter.

Money Market

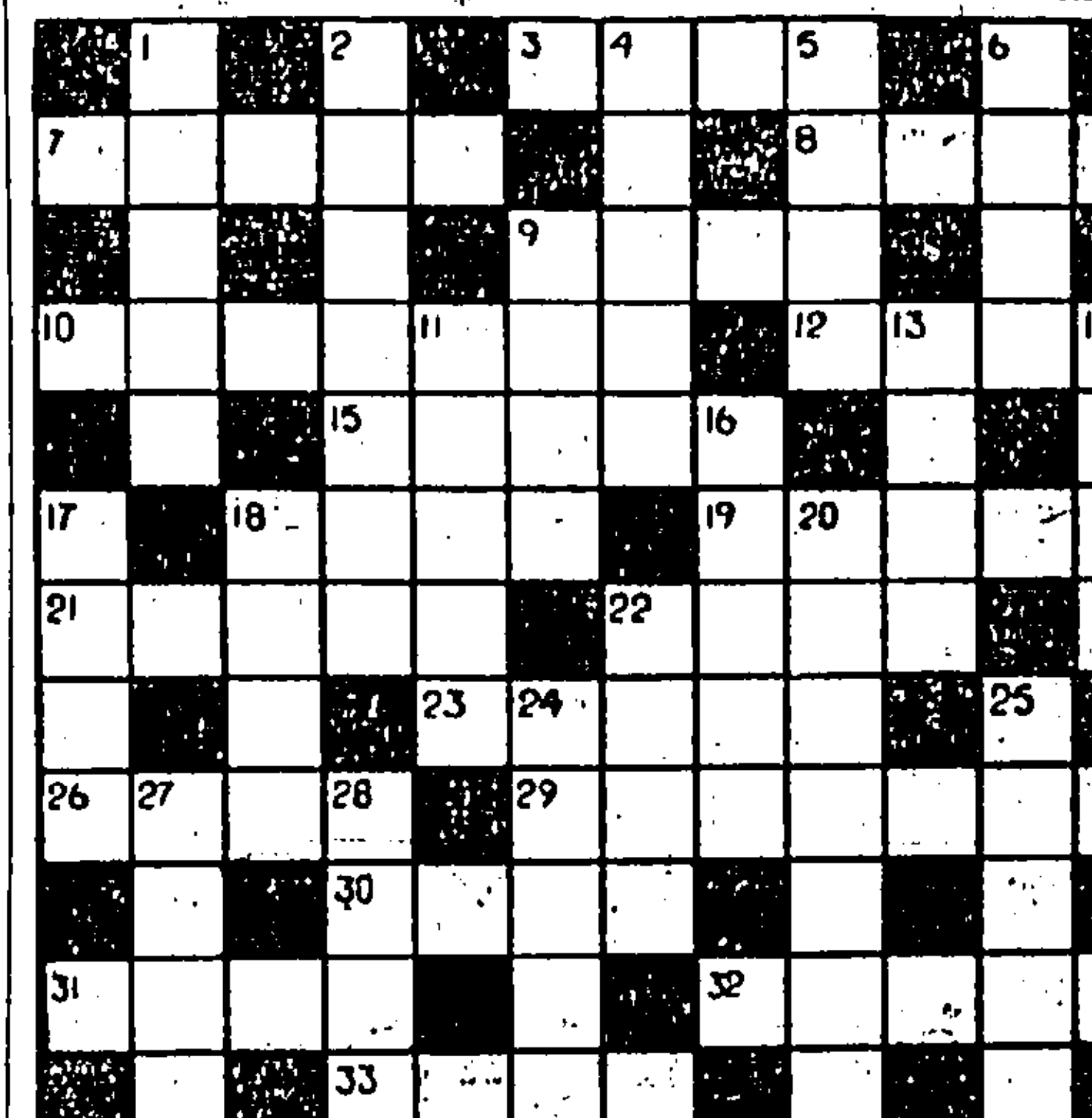
Gold yesterday maintained the recovery it gained the previous day. Opening at \$295 a ton it climbed to \$300 but eased off to \$295.75 at the close. Pinstre continued their upgrade and climbed to \$12.82 1/2 a 100 when the market was at its peak. The opening quotation was \$12.27 1/2 and it was down to \$12.15 for a time. Closing rate was \$12.35.

Chinese National Currency also continued its improvement. Opening at 35 1/2 cts. for futures and 44 cts. for spot (for C\$10,000), it closed at 35 1/2 cts. and 45 cts. respectively.

U.S. dollar appreciated slightly to \$3.03. Sterling eased off to \$13.07, and Australian pounds were unchanged at \$12.51.

Tenals and NEI Guilders continued their ascent and yesterday were quoted on the Exchange at \$28.40 and \$26.70 a 100 respectively.

A BRITISH CROSS WORD PUZZLE



Clues Across

1 Chase. 19 Decree. 21 Dens. 22 Send out. 23 Mistake. 24 Need. 25 Took over. 26 Puppet. 27 Mature. 28 Skirting. 29 Narrative. 30 Neat. 31 Dirs. 32 Wonder. 33 Legal. 34 Join. 35 Trampled. 36 Replenish. 37 Cut. 38 Scratch. 39 Leave out. 40 Behind time. 41 Devil. 42 Slaughtered. 43 Legal. 44 Join. 45 Trampled. 46 Replenish. 47 Cut. 48 Scratch. 49 Leave out. 50 Behind time. 51 Equine gait.

Yesterday's Crossword
Across—1. Searched. 2. Mood. 3. Chirp. 4. Poppy. 5. Rise. 6. Regulation. 7. Vent. 8. List. 9. Commander. 10. Claw. 11. Elate. 12. Moist. 13. Peer. 14. Dodged.

PACIFIC ORIENT EXPRESS LINE

M.V. "VITO"

LOADING HONGKONG ABOUT 21st DECEMBER FOR PACIFIC COAST PORTS VIA SHANGHAI, TAKUBAR & PHILIPPINES.

Sailing from SHANGHAI, HONGKONG, MANILA direct to SAN FRANCISCO and PACIFIC COAST PORTS

Loading Hong Kong (if sufficient inducement)

M.V. "VILJA" Mid January
M.V. "VINGNES" Mid February
M.V. "KOOKABURRA" March

Vessels equipped with bulk oil storage facilities.

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HONG KONG - MACAO - HAIPHONG

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S.S. "SAN ERNESTO"

LOADING ABOUT 18th/19th DECEMBER 1947. SAILING ABOUT 20th DECEMBER 1947.

FOR FREIGHT & PASSAGE APPLY TO: JOHN MANNERS & CO., LTD.

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N.Y. SILVER & GOLD

Silver, Bar (asked price) 74 1/2 cts. 74 1/2 cts.
Bar Gold, per fine ounce (official) \$15.55; (N.Y. Unofficial), \$15.50; \$15.50—Reuter.

NO SUGAR RATION

The International Emergency Food Council today announced that it is discontinuing its programme of recommending worldwide allocation of sugar—United Press.

Notice To Consignees.

M.S. "SHANSI"

Damaged cargo on the above vessel will be surveyed by Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on 20th December 1947, and consignees representatives are requested to be present during the survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents, Hongkong, 17th Dec., 1947.

Notice To Consignees

MAERSK LINE

THE M.V. "JOHANNES MAERSE" having arrived from New York and Ports of call. Consignees of Cargo are hereby notified that their goods are hereby landed and placed at their risk into the Hong Kong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Company's godowns at Kowloon, where delivery may be obtained as soon as the goods are landed.

Optional cargo will not be landed here, unless notice has been given 48 hours prior to vessel's arrival, but carried on from port to port to the final port of call to which the option extends.

No claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all goods remaining undelivered after the 23rd December 1947 will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on 22nd December 1947 @ 10 a.m. by our Surveyors Messrs. Goddard & Douglas.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

No claim will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godowns, and all goods remaining undelivered after the 17th December, 1947 will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the undersigned on or before the 27th December, 1947, or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

DODWELL & CO. LTD.
Agents, Hongkong, 10th December, 1947.

JEBSEN & CO., Agents
Hong Kong, 16th December 1947.

All claims must reach us before the 16th January, 1948, or they will not be recognized.

No insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

JEBSEN & CO., Agents
Hong Kong, 16th December 1947.

PRESIDENT LINER SAILINGS

REFRIGERATION—SPECIAL CARGO OIL TANKS—CARGO CARRIER—SPECIFIC

TO SAN FRANCISCO

88 "Marine Adder" (via Manila & Honolulu) Dec. 18
88 "General Melas" (via Shanghai & Yokohama) Dec. 21
88 "Marine Swallow" (via Shanghai & Yokohama) Jan. 12
88 "General Gordon" (via Manila & Honolulu) Jan. 21

Note: Third Class Passage Fare from Hongkong to Pacific Coast is US\$20.00 plus US\$5.00 for persons who are not U.S. Citizens.

TO SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES

88 "President Grant" (via Nagoya, Yokohama & Honolulu) Dec. 21
88 "President Taft" (S. F. Direct) Dec. 29
88 "Clovis Victory" (via Manila) Jan. 4
88 "President Pierce" (S. F. Direct) Jan. 14

TO BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE & MADRAS

88 "Marine Swallow" Dec. 18

TO NEW YORK AND HAVANA VIA MANILA, SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, COCHIN, BOMBAY, SUEZ AND MEDITERRANEAN PORTS

88 "Louis McHenry Howe" (calls Karachi) Dec. 17
88 "Scott E. Land" Dec. 24
88 "Marine Snapper" (calls Karachi) Dec. 27
88 "President Monroe" Jan. 2

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American Pioneer Line

Arrivals from New York, Boston, Other Atlantic Ports via Panama

m.s. "PIONEER-SEA" Due Dec. 20
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m.s. "PIONEER-SEA" Sails Dec. 21
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Sailings to New York, Boston, Other Atlantic Ports via Panama Canal

m.s. "LOOKOUT" Sails Dec. 28
Arriving New York on or about Jan. 30, 1948.

For Full Particulars Call

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The SWEDISH EAST ASIATIC Co., Ltd.

M.S. "MANGALORE"

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m.s. "CASTLEVILLE" DUE 31st DEC

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ARRIVALS

SHIP FROM U.K. DUE

S.S. "BENVRACKIE" U.K. End Dec.

S.S. "BENDORAN" U.K. Early Jan.

SAILINGS

SHIP TO READY

S.S. "BENVRACKIE" London, Rotterdam, Antwerp, and Hamburg 1st Jan.

For Further Particulars, Apply To—

W. R. LOXLEY & CO. (CHINA) LTD.

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DERRIS ROOT, CARBONAD etc.

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They work so hard to meet every new strain, taxing nerves and muscles to the limit. And they change inevitably with age.

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Consult at the first suggestion of trouble.

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MESSAGERIES MARITIMES

Arriving from EUROPE via Ports

"ANDRE LEBON" Beginning January

"CHRISTIAN SASS" Beginning January

Sailing to EUROPE via Ports

"ANDRE LEBON" Middle January

Sailing for HAIPHONG

S.S. "KERSIN" on or about 27th December

For Passage and Freight apply to

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Agents: CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS TO

"HUPEH" Swatow 2 p.m. 19th Dec.

"HUNAN" Amoy, Foochow, Shanghai & Tientsin 5 p.m. 20th Dec.

"SINKIANG" (Korea) 4 p.m. 23rd Dec.

"SHENGKING" Shanghai 3 p.m. 24th Dec.

"PAKHAI" Singapore, Batavia, Sourabaya & Macassar D.L. 25th Dec.

"NEWCHWANG" Bangkok 4 p.m. 26th Dec.

"FOOCHOW" Swatow, Bangkok, Japan Ports 4 p.m. 26th Dec.

"SZECHUEN" & Saigon 3 p.m. 27th Dec.

"FENGNIEN" Japan Ports 4 p.m. 6th Jan 1948.

* Sails from Custodian Wharf

ARRIVALS FROM

"HUNAN" Swatow a.m. 19th Dec.

"NEWCHWANG" Shanghai 22nd Dec.

"PAKHAI" Shanghai & Keelung 22nd Dec.

"SHENGKING" Shanghai 7 a.m. 22nd Dec.

"FOOCHOW" Java & Singapore a.m. 23rd Dec.

"NANCHANG" Bangkok 26th Dec.

"NANCHANG" Shanghai 27th Dec.

CANTON RIVER LINE

Gates Open

"FATSHAN" Sails 1.30 a.m. 20th Dec. noon 19th Dec.

Arrives 2.30 p.m. 22nd Dec.

"WUSUEN" Sails 1.30 a.m. 22nd Dec. noon 21st Dec.

Arrives 6.30 p.m. 24th Dec.

Owing to low tide there will be no sailing to Canton on the 18th December.

Agents: BLUE FUNNEL LINE

U.K. SERVICE

Arrivals from

"ADRASTUS" U.K. via Straits 22nd Dec.

"LAOMEDON" 25th Dec.

Sailings to

"ANCHISES" Alexandria, Tangier, Liverpool via Port Said, Genoa, Marseilles, Havre, Liverpool & Glasgow via Straits & Port Said 31st Dec.

"MYRMIDON" 9th Jan.

NEW YORK SERVICE

Arrivals from

"PRIAM" U.S.A. via Manila and Shanghai End Jan.

Sailings to

"YUNNAN" Australia via Manila 16th Jan.

"SHANGHAI" Sydney & Melbourne via Manila 23rd Dec.

* Accepts cargo to N. Z. and Fiji Islands ports on through B/L

All The Above Subject To Alteration Without Notice.

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(See Separate Advertisement)

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For Passage and Freight Particulars Apply To The Above.

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Moller Steamship Company, Inc. New York General Agents.

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M.S. "LAURA MAERSK" Dec. 24

M.S. "JOHANNES MAERSK" Jan. 24

M.S. "MARCHEN MAERSK" Feb. 24

Special Tanks available for the carriage of oil in bulk

ARRIVALS FROM NEW YORK AND U.S. PORTS

ACCEPTING CARGO FOR MANILA

M.S. "MARCHEN MAERSK" Jan. 3

M.S. "GERTRUDE MAERSK" Jan. 11

M.S. "TREN MAERSK" Feb. 8

M.S. "LEISE MAERSK" Feb. 12

For Freight and Further Particulars please apply to

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Queen's Building, Tel. 26651-8

AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS

ARRIVALS FROM

Pools via Bangkok:

Dec. 18, BOAC (Capt. Johnson), 2.10 a.m.

Singapore via Bangkok:

Dec. 20, Cathay Pacific, 3 p.m.

Dec. 10, BOAC (Capt. Blackaller), 2.10 p.m.

Manila:

Dec. 19, Cathay Pacific, noon.

Dec. 19, Cathay Pacific, noon.

Shanghai:

Daily, CNAC (DC4), 10.45 a.m.

Dec. 19, HK Airways (Capt. Ballantine), 3.30 p.m.

San Francisco (via Honolulu, Wake, Guam, Okinawa, Shanghai):

Dec. 18, Pan-American, 4.45 p.m.

San Francisco (via Honolulu, Wake, Guam, Manila):

Dec. 20, Pan-American, 12.45 p.m.

Salmon:

Dec. 10, Air France, 2 p.m.

DEPARTURES TO

Pools via Bangkok:

Dec. 20, BOAC (Capt. Sandring), 8 a.m.

Oso via Bangkok:

Dec. 19, Braniff, 9 a.m.

Singapore via Bangkok:

Dec. 19, CPA, 7 a.m.

Singapore:

Dec. 20, BOAC (Capt. Blackaller), 7.30 a.m.

Bangkok:

Dec. 20, Pan-American, 2.15 p.m.

Manila:

Dec. 18, CPA, 1 p.m.

Dec. 18, Pan-American, 8 a.m.

Shanghai:

(Continued at foot of next column)

San Francisco (via Manila, Guam, Wake, Honolulu):

Dec. 18, Pan-American, 8 a.m.

San Francisco (via Shanghai, Okinawa, Guam, Wake, Honolulu):

Dec. 19, Pan-American, 10 a.m.

Salmon:

Dec. 20, Air France, 7.30 a.m.

(Continued at foot of next column)

PACIFIC TRANSPORT LINES

EXPRESS TRANS-PACIFIC SERVICE

S.S. "CHINA TRANSPORT"

Due from Pacific Coast about 28th Dec.

LOADS 28TH DEC. FOR LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO

via

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Limited Passenger Accommodation.

CARGO ACCEPTED ON THROUGH BILLS OF LADING FOR ALL PACIFIC COAST AND INLAND POINTS IN NORTH AMERICA

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"CAPITAL VICTORY" 31st Dec. Manila

"PACIFIC TRANSPORT" 13th Jan. Shanghai and Yokohama

"PHILIPPINE TRANSPORT" 15th Jan. Manila

"LINFIELD VICTORY" 14th Feb. Shanghai, Tokyo, Bar & Yokohama

"CHINA TRANSPORT" 28th Feb. Shanghai and Yokohama

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Passengers: 6/8, Chater Road, Tel: 30311

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MOW SANG SHIPPING COMPANY.

3 Connaught Road, West. Tel. No. 31508

HONGKONG & MACAO LINE

S.S. "KWONG SAI" H.K. Departure: 8.00 P.M. MACAO Departure: 8.30 A.M.

Subject to alteration without notice.

For Passage & Freight Particulars Please Apply To The Above.

SAILING DIRECT FOR BANGKOK

S.S. "PRODUCE"

Loading 21st December 1947.

Sailing 22nd December 1947.

For freight particulars apply to

JEBSHUN SHIPPING CO.

68 Bonham Strand West. Tel. 26651

THE DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

S.S. "HAIYANG"

Sailing for Swatow only

1.00 P.M. 20th December

FROM DOUGLAS HEAD

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For Particulars of Freight & Passage, Please apply to

DOUGLAS LARRAIK & CO.

General Managers:

P. & O. Building 5th floor. Tel. No. 81381

CHINESE SHIPPING DEPT.

20 Connaught Road, Central. Tel. No. 26651

POST OFFICE

MAIL NOTICE

Outward Mails

Unless otherwise stated, Registered Articles and Parcel-Post close 10 minutes earlier than the Ordinary Mail. If Mail close, before 10.00 a.m. Registered and Parcel-Post will close at 5.00 p.m. on previous day.

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

Closing Times by Air

Airmail for Shanghai, Hankow, Nanking, Tientsin and Peking (Reg.) 8 p.m. (Ord.) 8.30 p.m.

Airmail for Canton, Swatow, Amoy, and Fochow: Airmail for Kweilin (Reg.) 3 p.m. (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

Canton, 7 a.m.

Macao, Tientsin and Shensi, 8 a.m.

Manila, Honolulu, U.S.A., Canada, Central and South America via San Francisco (No Parcel for Canada), (Par. & Reg.) 1.30 p.m. (Ord.) 2 p.m.

Canton, 2 p.m.

Straits and Marseilles, 8 p.m.

Malaya and Bombay, 8 p.m.

Hobart, 5 p.m.

Macao, Tientsin and Shensi, 4 p.m.

Kingman, 4 p.m.

Canton, 5 p.m.

Daily, CNAC (DC4) 11.45 a.m.

Dec. 18, HK Airways (Capt. Ballantine), 10 a.m.

Dec. 19, Pan-American, 10 a.m.

Dec. 20, HK Airways (Capt. Varley), 10 a.m.

San Francisco (via Manila, Guam, Wake, Honolulu):

Dec. 18, Pan-American, 8 a.m.

San Francisco (via Shanghai, Okinawa, Guam, Wake, Honolulu):

Dec. 19, Pan-American, 10 a.m.

Salmon:

Dec. 20, Air France, 7.30 a.m.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

ARRIVALS, YESTERDAY

Jan Ricardo (J. Mannors) 850 tons from Shanghai (Capt. L. Gorde), A.S.

Louis (M. R. D. R.) 3,861 tons from Shanghai (Capt. R.G. Wilson), Kin. Wh.

Platiburg (Wallen) 6,301 tons from Shanghai (Capt. T.A. McGuire), L.O.K.

Proper (Everett) 1,377 tons from Singapore (Capt. A.S. Dugge), B.S.

Sinking (B. & S.) 4,761 tons from Swatow (Capt. D.D. Richards), B.S.

Scout (M.R.) 3,861 tons from Kulu (Capt. R. D. R.), A.S.

Marine Adder (A.P.L.) from San Francisco, Kin. Wh.

Canadoc (China S.S. Co.), B.C.

Rubystone (P. & O.) from Japan, A.S.

DEPARTURES YESTERDAY

Tjibadoc (J.C.P.L.) to Batavia

Johnnes Maerk (Jebson) to Keelung

City of Lucknow (Bank Line) to Manila

Isle (Moller) to Sandakan

Rosville (Bank Line) to Singapore

ARRIVING TODAY

Wing Sang (Jardine's) from Shanghai

Tjibadoc (J.C.P.L.) from Amoy, A.S.

Marine Adder (A.P.L.) from San Francisco, Kin. Wh.

Coastal Buecaner (Everett's), B.S.

EXPECTED DEPARTURES

Jean Lafitte (Wallen) to Shanghai

Platiburg (Wallen) to Ras Tanura

Proper (Everett's) to Amoy.

VESSELS IN PORT

Allpur (Williamson) Kin. Wh.

Algerona (B. & S.) Kin. Wh.

Alphard (J.C.P.L.) Talook Dh.

Alia (Moller) Kin. Wh.

Amaranthus (Wheelock) S.S. Po

Anlock (Wallen) S.S. Po

Bris (Thoresen) D.L.

Bushwood (P. & O.) Kin. Wh.

Calder 2 (Texas Co.) Talook Dh.

Canon Bar (Carroll S.S.) Yaumati

Canadoc (China S.S. Co.) S.C.

Catherine (B.E. Aley) Yaumati

Empire (Thoresen) Yaumati

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JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.

FREIGHT DEPARTMENT 16 PEDDER ST. TEL. 30311

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General Managers

INDO-CHINA S. N. CO., LTD.

SAILINGS

S.S. "TAKSANG" to Singapore, Penang & Calcutta noon 20th Dec.

S.S. "WINGSANG" to Shanghai 11 a.m. 21st Dec.

S.S. "HANGSANG" to Shanghai & Kobe 22nd Dec.

S.S. "LOKSANG" to Singapore, Penang & Calcutta 30th Dec.

S.S. "WINGSANG" to Keelung & Shanghai 1st Jan.

S.S. "EMPIRE WITHAM" to Shanghai, Kobe & Yokohama 5th Jan.

ARRIVALS

S.S. "WINGSANG" from Shanghai & Keelung 8 a.m. 18th Dec.

S.S. "HANGSANG" from Calcutta & Straits 10th Dec.

S.S. "LOKSANG" from Yokohama & Kobe 27th Dec.

S.S. "HANGSANG" from Sandakan & Keelung 29th Dec.

S.S. "WINGSANG" from Keelung & Shanghai 30th Dec.

S.S. "EMPIRE WITHAM" from Calcutta & Straits 2nd Jan.

Cargo accepted on Through Bills of Lading for MADRAS via Singapore and for KUDAT, JESSELTON, LABUAN, TAWAT, LADHAD-DATU and SEMPORNA via Sandakan.

General Managers

AUSTRALIA CHINA LINE LTD.

M.V. "HINDUSTAN" Loaded Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney due Hong Kong about 27th Dec.

M.V. "KAFIRISTAN" Loads Sydney (Inward), late December, Melbourne, Adelaide if sufficient inducement, and Sydney (upward) mid January for Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Agents: GLEN LINE LTD.

SAILINGS

M.V. "DENBIGHSHIRE" Loads for London & Continental Ports via Straits & Suez late Jan.

M.V. "GLENARTNEY" Loads for London & Continental Ports via Straits & Suez End February.

ARRIVALS

M.V. "DENBIGHSHIRE" Sailed from London 22nd Nov. via Suez & Straits due early Jan.

M.V. "GLENARTNEY" Sailed from London 6th Dec. via Suez & Straits due late Jan.

M.V. "RHEXENOR" Sailed from London 11th Dec. via Suez & Straits due Middle Jan.

M.V. "GLENARTNEY" Sails from London 23rd Dec. via Suez & Straits due early Feb.

Agents:

WESTERN CANADA STEAMSHIP Co., Ltd.

S.S. "LAKE CANIM" Loads for Vancouver about 4th January if sufficient inducement.

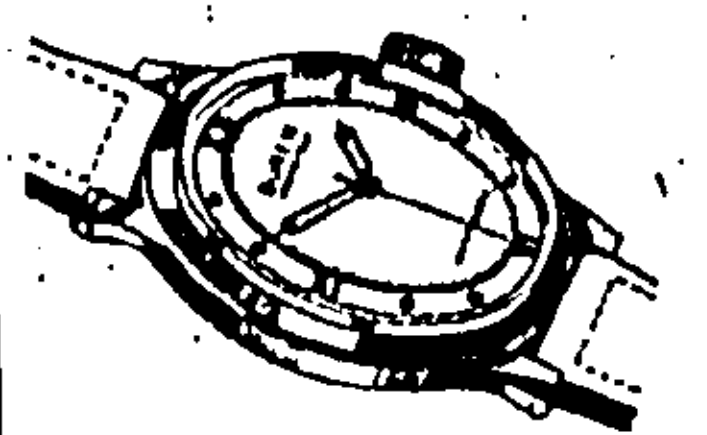
S.S. "LAKE WINNIPEG" Loads for Vancouver about 7th January if sufficient inducement.

S.S. "LAKE LILLOET" Loads for Pacific Coast Ports & Vancouver 1st January if sufficient inducement.

Subject to alteration without notice.

All intending Passengers are requested to register their names as far as possible in advance of the time at which they wish to leave

Agents:



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THE PERFECT
SWISS WATCH

CHINA MAIL

HONG KONG, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1947.

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MUD MADE DEBACLE OF SECOND TEST

Toll Of The Cold In S'hai

Shanghai, Dec. 17. The bodies of ten adults and 131 children were picked up in Shanghai streets in the last two days—the first Shanghai cold spell.

Aust. Down For 107: India 7 For 61

Sydney, Dec. 17. After two Clank days because of rain, play in the second Test between Australia and India was resumed today—the fifth day. At the close of play, India had scored sixty one runs for seven wickets in their second innings. Australia had made 107 for their first innings, and India 188.

Stage Set For Swiss Olympics

Saint Moritz (Switzerland), Dec. 17. Switzerland is all set to stage the Winter Olympics from January 30 to February 8.

The Press Commission of the Swiss Olympic Committee reports indications are that there will be 2,200 competitors, officials and press, radio and film representatives here for the games.

Originally 1,000 persons in these categories were expected.

Approximately 200 newsmen, photographers and 22 movie operators have asked for credentials.

The Alpine Combination will be one of the most popular events at the Winter Olympics. It is a tabulation of preliminary entries is indicative.

Twenty-one countries are slated to compete.—Associated Press.

The Test match was reduced to the level of the village green with Amrith as an opening bat.

If Amrith wanted runs quickly, why was Sarwate, who made three runs in 70 minutes, number three?

India, as the result of the change of batting order and timid play, lost a great opportunity, and are now in a position to lose the match.

Lindwall in six innings has taken Mankad's wicket six times, three times with yorkers.

Tied In Knots

Bill Johnston and Ian Johnston tied the Indian batsmen in knots. Johnston later bowled with a slower pace, making the ball break away. He had all the batsmen worried with his spin and inswing, with dip and yorkers.

Johnson, with flight and spin, bowled maiden after maiden. He fully deserved his two wickets and was unlucky not to get more. These two bowlers are likely to be successful on English wickets.

Lindwall and Miller, with their pace, gave no respite to the Indian batsmen. Australia batted poorly on a difficult wicket.

The Australian players, with wickets covered for state matches, have little experience of wet wickets.

Bradman Bowled

Hazare bowled Bradman with an inswinger, and getting Hussett well taken by Adhikari at silly mid-off, put an end to any prospect that Australia had of playing out the difficult times of the wicket.

Hazare bowled well and fully deserved four wickets, as he received very little help from the pitch.

India batted on a wicket very nearly easy paced. For some unknown reason, Amrith changed the batting order, sending Amrith Ehlidin to open the innings.

Filipino Pesos On New Bantamweight

Manila, Dec. 17. Filipinos take their boxing seriously and at the moment are putting their pesos down on young bantamweight Tiro dila Rosario to lift Manuel Ortiz's world bantamweight crown in the Rizal Memorial Stadium on the night of December 20.

They like the rangy, 26-year-old Far Eastern University student's string of 22 knockouts or technical knockouts in 24 starts.

Ten of these fights were amateur bouts which lifted Tiro to the featherweight championship of the Philippines.

The odds were three to one that Ortiz would retain his title, but considering the inexperience of his opponent, they were surprisingly low.

Tiro's backers look to him to become the fifth Filipino to win the world title.—Associated Press.

Footballers Urged To Assist Police

Clubs will be severely dealt with if they do not co-operate with the Police to control grounds, decided the full meeting of the Council of the Hong Kong Football Association, held in the board room of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank yesterday.

The Hon A. Morse, president, was in the chair.

After the usual monthly business had been completed, he said that the Police had written to Clubs with enclosed grounds complaining of the lack of co-operation in furnishing them certain particulars necessary for the control of the grounds and crowd.

In his letter, the Commissioner of Police, said that the recommendations of the Special Committee of seven, appointed by the Council last summer, were accepted in toto by the Council but these recommendations had not been followed by Clubs.

This resulted in a lot of inconvenience.

Lack of cooperation by clubs made the task of detaining police to grounds difficult.

If the state of affairs continued football would suffer.

Slackness

Mr. Morse said that it was regretted that Clubs had failed to give the Police every help.

Without the help of the Police, there could be no football. He deplored the slackness on the part of clubs in not playing the game.

Col. Reynolds, on behalf of the Army, said that the Police had since withdrawn the letter to them, as they were in no way to blame.

He asked that this be recorded in the minutes.

All the clubs concerned gave excuses and, at the end, Mr. J. Skinner proposed that a member of the Police force be co-opted to the League Management committee, as such member would then have full knowledge of what was going on in the Association and could advise on any points.

Mr. Haig Brown was elected.

Several other points in connection with ground and crowd control were discussed.

Election

The following were elected to serve on the Inter-club committee in connection with the forthcoming interclubs with Shanghai and Manila.

Mr. J. MacKellie, Mr. H. K. Lee, Mr. A. Clarke, Mr. A. Manlyne and Mr. L. Louey.

At the meeting it was revealed that a sum of over \$2,000 had been donated by clubs to the "Parcels for Britain Fund."

H.K. Trade Statistics

The Statistical Office of the Imports and Exports Department reports that imports of merchandise into the Colony of Hong Kong during the month of November, 1947, amounted to a declared value of \$167,850,276 as compared with \$80,917,749 in the month of November, 1946. The figures include Government sponsored cargoes.

Exports of merchandise totalled a declared value of \$123,880,561 as compared with \$83,116,024.

Imports during the first eleven months of 1947 amounted to \$1,372,996,042 as compared with \$820,039,073 in the first eleven months of 1946.

Exports totalled \$1,091,754,041 as compared with \$693,199,392.

BRITISH ARMY DRESS CHANGE

Considerable changes in dress have been approved by the War Office for the post-war Army. In tropical areas, of course, tropical uniform will continue to be worn.

Service dress—the dress that wives, sweethearts, and parents used to admire so greatly—will ultimately disappear, except for optional wear by full Colonels and above.

A new uniform—to be known as "No. 1 Dress"—will be introduced for wear by all ranks of the active Army and the Territorial Army. This will be worn on ceremonial occasions, walking-out and other parades when battle dress is unsuitable.

A considerable time will elapse before this new dress is brought into general use, owing to the shortage of materials, difficulties of production, and the all-out boost of the export drive.

Battle dress will continue to be worn for active service, training and working duties, but it has been considerably modified to make it look smarter and to be used with shirt sleeves. Material will be the same for officers and men.

The advantages of the cloth and

POPE APPEALS TO ROME FOR PEACE

Prays Attacks On Vatican Cease

Vatican City, Dec. 17. Pope Pius told Rome's Mayor and Executive Council today that he hoped the capital would be free from disorders, internal struggle and attacks against the Vatican before the start of the Church's Holy Year in 1950.

It was the Pope's first public reference to the Holy Year for which the Vatican has been planning for 12 months.

His audience to Rome's Christian Democrat Mayor, Salvatore Rebecchini, and 18 Executive Council men was the first granted by the Pope to freshly-elected Roman city officials since 1870.

The Pope said: "We nourish the faith that Rome, thanks to its ancient traditions, to its universal experience and to its Catholic hearts, will be seen in the Holy Year not only as mediator of understanding and of pacification among peoples but also as an example of virtue and of entire harmony and peace."

His words followed the two-day Communist-called general strike in Rome.

Disasters

The Pope recalled that, when he had received the temporary Government-appointed Rome Administrative Council three years ago, he had expressed the hope that "everyone would place common welfare above differences of opinion and political tendencies but this did not occur since agitation and disorders shook, in greater or smaller periods of time, the economic and social organism of the Italian people in such a manner that, rather than alleviating their problems, they increased them."

"It is the duty of every good citizen to cooperate in the defence of public welfare against those systems and those intentions which lead only to increasing privations and difficulties of life up to an intolerable point and which anger souls and destroy the unity of the State," he said.

"Good citizens must contribute, according to their strength, to tranquil work, order, public security, justice and social peace."—United Press.

Bamboo Poles Swing When Coolies Clash

A brawl over transportation of fish—apparently a "terrific" one if the cracked and split bamboo poles exhibited in court were any indication—had a sequel at Central Magistrate's yesterday.

The brawl, on Dec. 8, involved about 30 coolies.

Ten of the 11 participants arrested were convicted and sentenced.

Another, whose right hand was badly injured and who claimed to have been assaulted, was discharged.

He was advised by the prosecution to report to the Queen Mary Hospital for medical treatment within a month.

Another defendant, apparently seriously wounded on the head, was at first discharged on the assault indictment, but was brought into the dock again and sentenced to six weeks for breach of expulsion and recommended for banishment.

HONG KONG BANKS PUT UNDER RIGID GOVT. CONTROL

(Continued from Page 1)

are also given to the Governor-in-Council because by clause 7 it is provided that the Governor-in-Council, after consultation with the advisory committee, and if he considers it to be in the public interest so to do, may order any licensed bank to produce books, accounts and documents, to delete from its name the description "bank"; to refrain from carrying on banking business; and to return for cancellation the licence which it had obtained from the Governor-in-Council to do banking business.

"Necessary ancillary provisions in the Bill provide that there shall be an annual licence fee payable by a licensed bank on the second day of each calendar year to the amount of \$5,000.

"There is power upon application to a magistrate to obtain a search warrant, to authorise entry into premises if there is reasonable suspicion that contravention of the Ordinance is taking place.

Penalties

"Finally, by clause 15 there is provision for penalty both upon summary conviction and upon trial on indictment.

"Met importantly, I would add, the Bill is designed to apply not only to organisations which in the future may desire to do banking business, but also to organisations which had such business at the time of the commencement of this Ordinance.

"It has therefore been necessary to include in the Bill transitional provisions, such provisions appearing in clauses 12 and 13.

"Broadly stated, clause 12 applies to organisations doing business and being companies at the commencement of this Ordinance. In that clause is given a period of 30 days in which to make application for licence, and consequential provision is included for those cases where a licence to continue to do banking business is refused.

Extension

"Clause 13 applies to such organisations as are not companies, and their case provides that notwithstanding the prohibition against doing banking business by any organisation other than a company, it will be possible for them to apply to the Governor-in-Council for a special licence to enable them to continue to do such business."

The motion was seconded by the Colonial Secretary (Mr. D.M. MacDougal) and carried unanimously.

Printed and published for the proprietors, "The Hong Kong Free Press," Limited, by W. S. Shierly & Co., Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Far East War Despatches In January?

London, Dec. 16. The Secretary of War, Mr. Emanuel Shawell, expects that British official war despatches relating to operations in the Far East during the earlier part of the war would start being published about the middle of January.

Those relating to the loss of Singapore and the Malay Peninsula should reach their turn for publication within the following four or five weeks, he added.

Mr. Shawell gave these facts in a reply to a question in the House of Commons today.—Reuter.

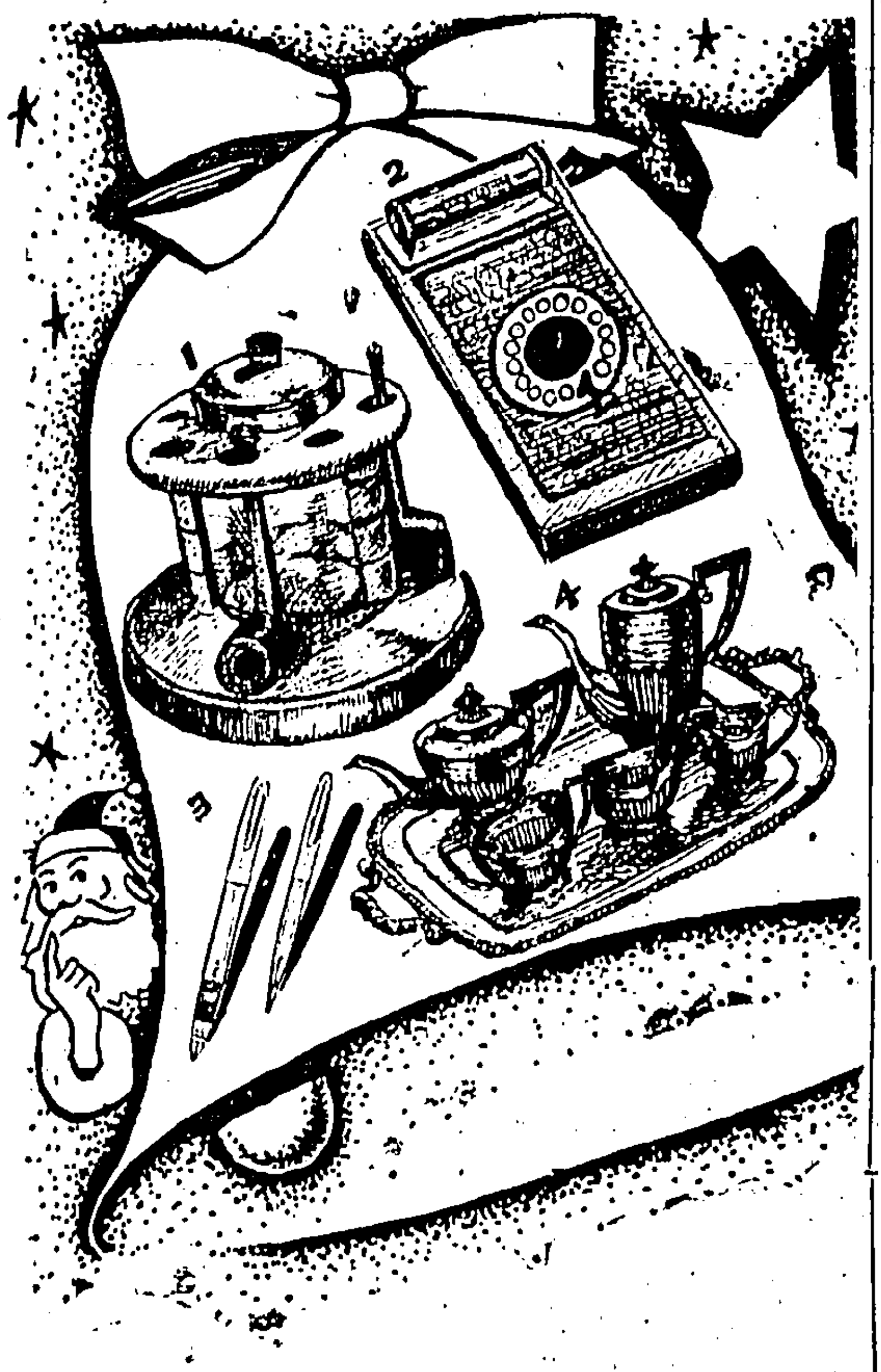
Crippen's Capturer Dies At 84

Worthing, Dec. 16. Mr. Walter Dew, Chief Inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department, Scotland Yard, who arrested Dr. Crippen in 1910 for murdering his wife in London, died today at his home at the age of 84.

Mr. Dew, who led the hunt for Crippen from the beginning, said in his book "I Caught Crippen" that Crippen's early mistake was dressing Ethel in Nurse's uniform.

Wireless was used for the first time to catch a criminal as Mr. Dew pursued Crippen and his mistress.

Aboard the liner Montrose bound for Canada, Captain Kendall became suspicious when he noticed a man and a "boy" exchanging affectionate hand squeezes. He sent a wireless signal to London and Dew immediately boarded the liner Lauren, which arrived in Canada before the Montrose.—Reuter.



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- Dialist & Perpetual Calendar. Finished in lustrous walnut grain with brass trimming.

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REMAINED

Wong Sam-chai, 20, and Leung Hung, 26, alleged to be two of the four armed men who attempted to rob the residence of Mr. Hoo Yip-beng, Manager of the Overseas Chinese Bank, at 3.55 p.m. on Monday, appeared before Mr. W. H. Latimer at Kowloon yesterday.

They were charged with armed robbery (with Chan Pul and Li Fuk, not in custody) at 39 Nathan Road, first floor, and with possession of a toy pistol, arms and ammunition, and a dagger.

On the application of Det. Sub-Inspector W. J. Wall, accused were remanded for 72 hours in custody.

FILM ON JAPAN

Under the auspices of the Sino-British Club a two-hour colour film entitled "In Occupied Japan" will be shown in the hall of Queen's College, 26 Kennedy Road, by Mr. William Courtney, M.M. F.R.G.S., A.R.A.S., Pacific War Correspondent of the London "Sunday Times" and Kewley Newspapers, England, and also "Aeronautical" Correspondent at 5.30 p.m. on Monday.

The accommodation in the hall is limited to 200 and members of the Sino-British Club and their friends would make a point of arriving before 5 p.m.



Christmas Supplement

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1947.

THE CHRISTMAS GLOW Let's Do Our Best To Hold On To It This Year

Christmas is a time of gladness and rejoicing, of faith reborn.

Why then do we let it pass from us so quickly? Can we not do something to help it stay with us longer? We are speaking, of course, not of the outward symbols of Christmas so familiar to all of us, but of its real and inner spirit, which is the very heart of Christmas.

Think back now to last Christmas. Tired though you may have been and worn out physically when the day was over, you were, if only for that one day, a better person. You felt better inside, you tried to make those around you happy and share in the meaning of the occasion. Then came Thursday and much of that wonderful feeling was gone—all of it for some people.

It is said that on December 26 of each year Christmas, for most people, has passed. They have nothing to show but the after-Christmas letdown and the return to old ways. "It was nice while it lasted," they say, "but now let's get on to other things."

How Many?

Why should we let it pass from us so quickly, if at all? Ought we not hold onto that Christmas glow, letting the spirit which fills us and motivates us on this one great day remain with us for many to come?

You remember the familiar words of the Christmas story found in the 19th and 20th verses of Luke's second chapter: "But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart."

"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."

How many people, like Mary, ponder these deep things of

Christmas in their hearts? How many, like the shepherds, return from the church services and the Christmas story, really glorifying and praising God for all the things they have heard and seen?

These feelings of Mary, of the shepherds, and of all whose lives were touched by this amazing incident in history—the birth of the Christ child—didn't come to an end with Christmas night, but lived on, making them better people—gloriously happy and filled with a new attitude toward life.

If we want to look upon this whole experience of Christmas as just an exciting, colourful celebration, something we get all steamed up about once a year and pour into a few hectic hours, we might as well forget about it as far as any religious significance is concerned.

But if there is any truth at all in the premise that there is a living message and strength for us in the Christmas experience, then we too, now in our time, can grasp some of the feeling of Mary and the shepherds.

What It Can Do For Us

Living in the Christmas glow is something we should want to do throughout the year, not just because of the immediate uplift it gives us but because of what it can do for us every day of our lives. Not to live amid the endless trappings and hectic preparations but amid the spirit and message of it; the glorious and thrilling message that a Saviour has come to us, to give us a rebirth of mind and spirit, to save us from the mean and low and degrading things of life and to inspire us to that which is fine and good—to bring into

the world through us a song of hope, of courage, of inspiration and of faith. If Christmas hasn't meant this to us, then we have lost its meaning and the days ahead may be lacking in joy, faith and power.

Let us keep the glorious message of Christmas glowing within us, shield it, cause it to burst into a flame, lighting and warming our lives.

Like the shepherds, we must be anxious and willing to look for Jesus each day. When He does come to us, when we find Him, just as with the shepherds, we've got to make that experience the most important thing in our lives.

Eternal Hope

We can go on living in the Christmas glow and have it to cheer us, comfort us, encourage us, uplift us through the year. If we keep alive its spirit of giving to others—the spirit of cheering, helping, of giving ourselves in thought as well as in substance. For it is in such an attitude and spirit that others will see Christmas and its message, its meaning and its eternal hope, living in us.

If we can do these things, the spiritual glow and warmth of Christmas will be ours every day.

But the power of Christmas is not confined to our personal lives, and personal happiness is not our sole reward. That may be our greatest concern in life even though oftentimes it can be quite selfish. But more than this, here in Christmas and its eternal message is the source of power for achieving the kind of world we want and need. We must keep that spirit of Christmas alive and nourish it if we want that world of peace and good will of which the angels sang.



Jane Hylton, the Arthur Rank actress, posed for this charming greetings card.

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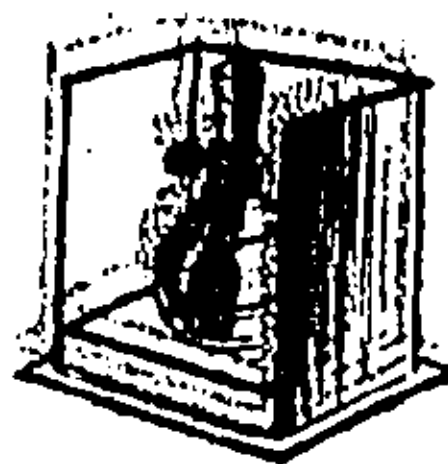
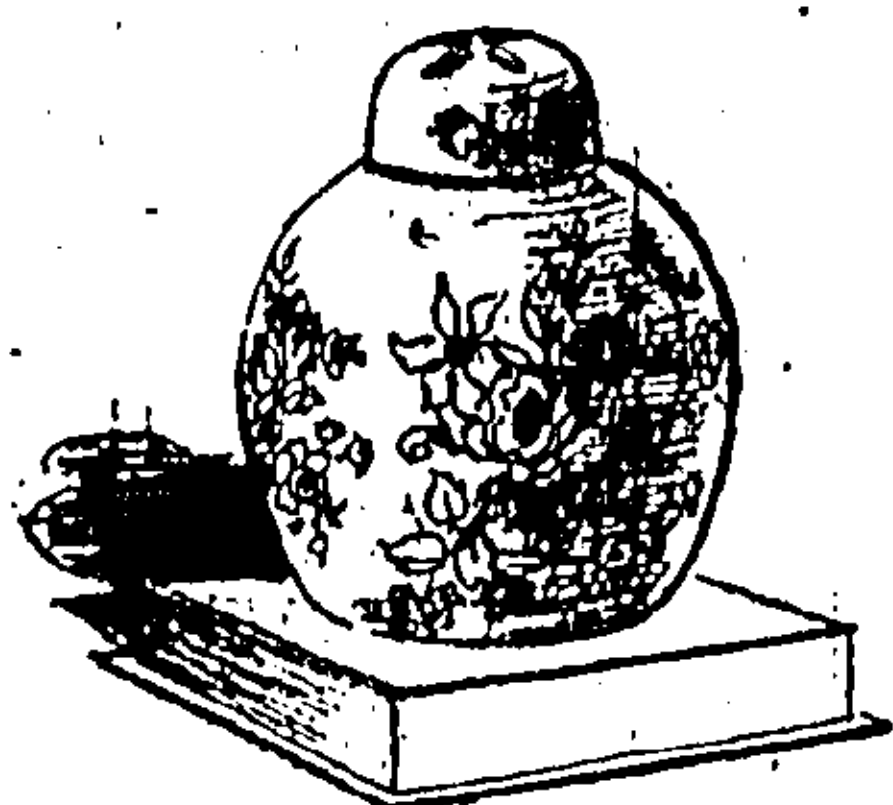
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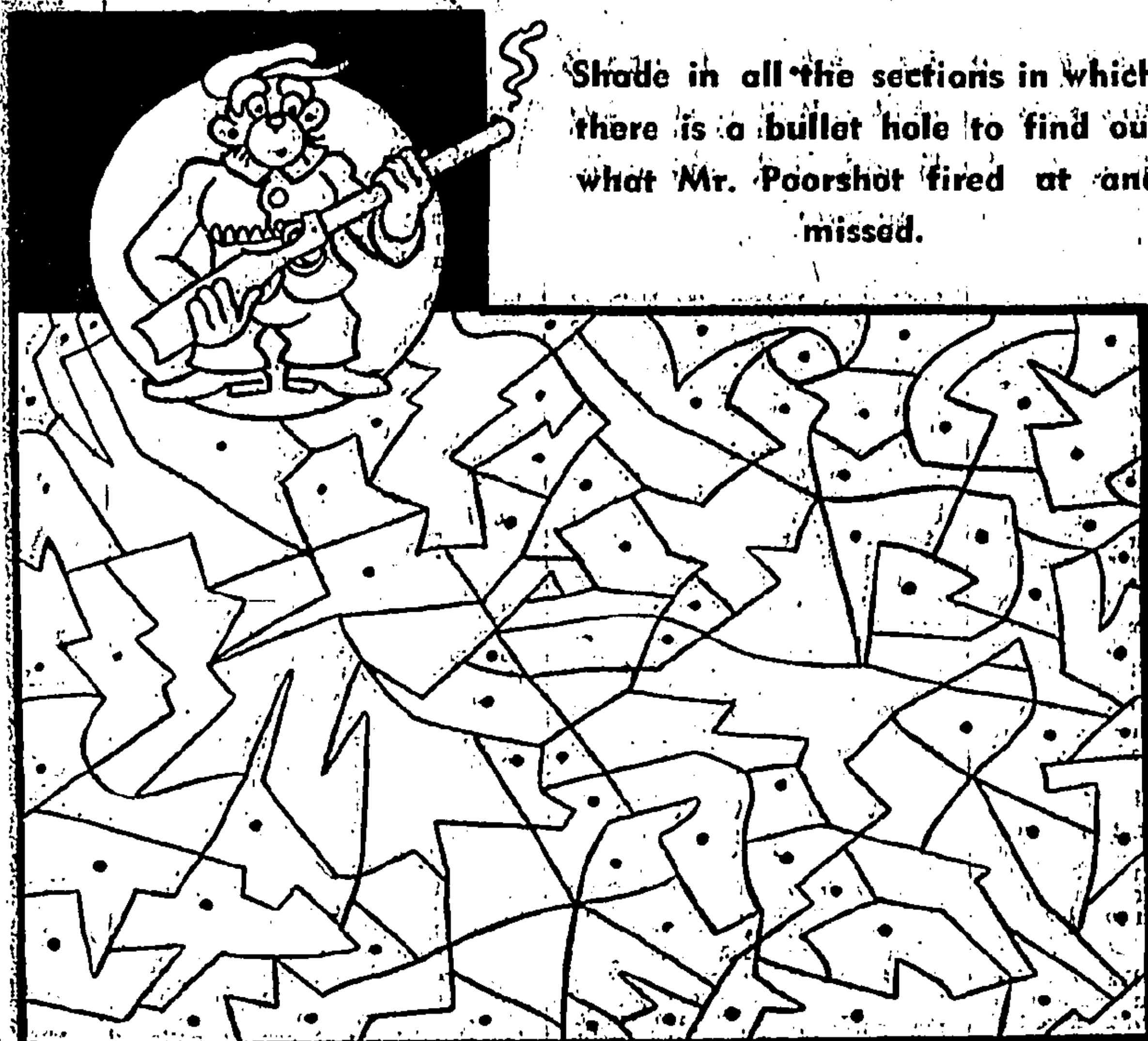
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XMAS PUZZLES



General Knowledge

- On the left is a list of words: On the right are the various meanings. Pair them off suitably.
 Hookah A crooked bird
 Hippogriff A piece of armour
 Hautboy An eastern pipe
 Luckaback A musical instrument
 Hoopoo A fabulous animal
 Hauberk A linen fabric
- Pericle is the name of:
 An old Greek writing-imple-
 ment?
 A row of columns round a
 building?
 A perennial flower?
 A term for good literary com-
 positions?
- You hate:
 Wide spaces.
 Water.
 High places.
 Close quarters.
 Strangers.
 The special words for these
 various dislikes are:
 Hydrophobia.
 Acrophobia.
 Claustrophobia.
 Xenophobia.
 Which is the suitable word in
 each instance?
- Three men, each accompanied by
 his two sons, went to a hotel
 to sleep. There were only seven
 beds, but each of the visitors in-
 sisted on having a bed to himself
 —and got it. How was this
 possible?

Answers To the problems on this
page will be found in Page Three.

AN INDIAN PROBLEM

Two Indians are Walking Up A Hill in
Single File, One Behind The Other. The In-
dian In Front Is The Son Of The Indian Be-
hind, But The Indian Behind Is Not The
Father Of The Indian In Front. What Then
Is Their Relationship?

QUIZWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS
- What is the name of a gov-
ernment and a certain food?
 - What is the term for mercy
killing of humans?
 - Plasch became known as
Lord—?
 - What is another name for
typhoid?
 - On which island do immi-
grants to the USA land?
 - What is the art of painting
murals on wet and freshly-
laid plaster?
 - Who was Tonia in Pagliacci?
 - What character was por-
trayed by Margaret O'Brien
in "The Lost Angel"?
 - What is the plural term of
the size of usual letterhead
paper?
 - What name has been given
to Tiziano Vecelli, a famous
Italian painter?
 - In poultry farming, what is
the term for a hen rejected
as a non-layer?
- DOWN
- What is the business of a
farmer?
 - Which region in SE Europe
has been divided between
Greece, Turkey and Bul-
garia?
 - Which acid, found in oak
trees, is used in medicine?
 - Who interpreted the "Writ-
ing on the Wall"?
 - Which adjective means boll-
ing up or agitated?
 - What are being investigated
at White Sands, USA?
 - In grammar, what is a figure
of syntax by which a word
or words are left out and
implied?
 - What is French for step?
 - What is a small two-masted
fore-and-aft sailboat?
 - When combined with a me-
tallo oxide, what will form
a salt?
 - What does a person do to
nictate?



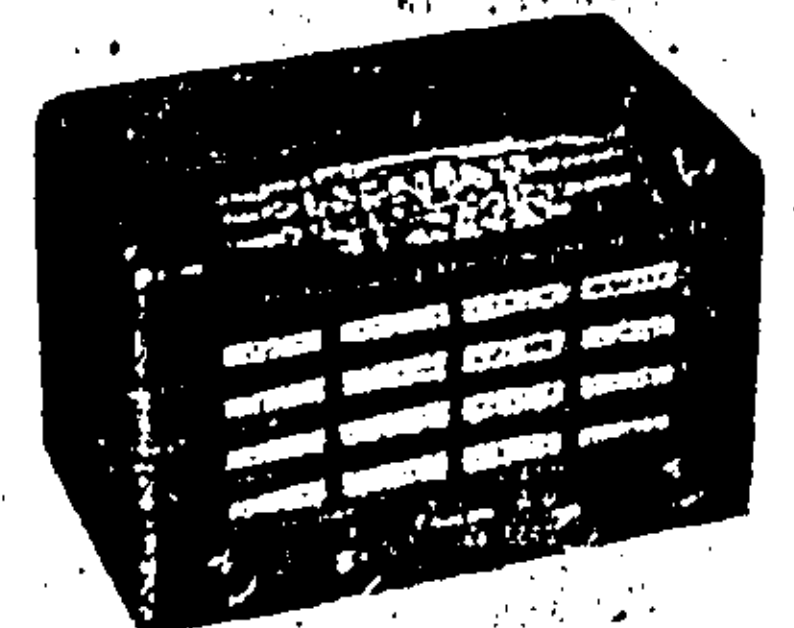
XMAS GIFTS

THAT ARE BOUND TO PLEASE

FOR THE HOME

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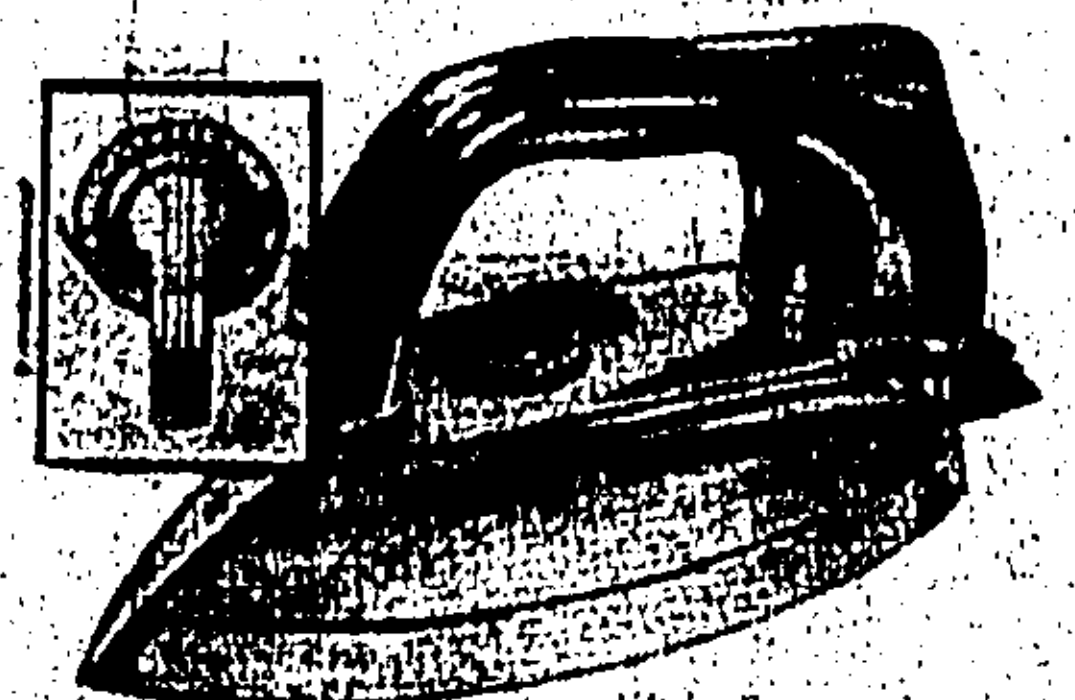
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An Old-Fashioned English Xmas

By Gordon Cooper

The old Devon Inn is waiting for me again this Christmas. Joyfully I allow my imagination to anticipate the pleasure of arrival—from the start at Paddington station, where I choose a compartment with cheerful-looking strangers to be my companions for the long rail journey. Last year we all joined in at playing a game called "Guggenheim"—a test of memory agility, but with such a strange fascination that we kept at it all the way to our destination. Strangers to start with, we parted friends.

From the railway station to my inn (they call it an hotel, I know, but to me it stands for all that is inseparable from the good English word "inn") is a 16-mile road journey, most of it over lonely country; again, however, the time will fly, for there will be much to discuss with Fred, the driver of the somewhat ancient hotel car. He is a fund of information on all those eternal topics of country life—the crops, the ways of animals, local customs, the people.

Arrival

Suddenly there will appear round a bend in the road the sea. I hope it will be stormy again, with the billowing waves crashing against the cliff-lined shore. Past the ancient, high-towered church, down a hairpin road on the side of the cliffs, and I will have arrived at the old inn.

My jovial host will be at the door to greet me. The fire also will beckon me in with an enticing finger—a real fire calling back a wanderer with a peremptory crackle, embracing the faithful in its open-hearted warmth. This burning heart of the entrance lounge is a carefully laid fire, a fire of many parts. First there is a layer of old wood stumps, then a layer of coal, followed by a pile of peat, and topped by dry and crackling faggots. To each ingredient the flame reacts differently. With the stumps and coal it is bright and steady; with the peat it glows dully and more reluctantly; but when it reaches the climax in the faggots, it snaps and roars to the skies up the black and grimy

tunnel of the ancient chimney, big enough to hide in.

What in all the world is there to excel the magic of a Christmas welcome? For many years an exile, I have spent Christmas in some strange, distant places of the world; in the forests of Finland and on the Equator, on board a ship in the Indian Ocean and on a train travelling over the Kalahari Desert, in the trenches, on a mine in Malaya. But at last, I have found perfection. Here, in an English inn, I find the lure of light and warmth and food, and the precious gift of good companionship among my own folk at Christmas-tide.

Brass and Power

It feels almost as though the old inn were waiting for me this Christmas Eve. My host takes me into the adjoining bar, with its sanded floor swept clean, while he prepares a toddy. I look around at the brass candlesticks with holly and laurel garlands standing on the Jacobean dresser. Rows of pewsters, shining clean and highly burnished, hang from shelves, catching the ruddy, wink of the fire in splashes and slits. Behind the bar-counter casks already tapped stand waiting for the evening revellers.

The English may be stiff and reserved in some hotels, but not here. We all take our cue from our host and his buxom, cheerful wife (and what a cook she is!), and even from the three little Devon serving maids, each one of them out to do all in her power to please the Christmas guests. It is indeed a joyous company that sits down to dinner that evening. And what a feast! The miseries of minute London rations are for the time forgotten.

Without can be heard the aullen roar of the storm and the waves, but that does not depress for the bright, flickering fire and the jolly jug are enough to make the cold seem wonderful and bracing. Soon, too, the Christmas dance is to start.

Important Ceremony

Before it commences there is, however, an important cere-



The fire will beckon me with an enticing finger.

mony to be held. As we all sit talking and laughing in the bar, the blurred, far-off sound of approaching singers penetrates the stone walls of the inn. Suddenly the door opens and half a dozen men enter. They are the wassail singers, and their leader descends on the landlord with his husky "Wassail, wassail, a jolly wassail!" Under his arm is a dark wooden bowl, empty and smooth. "What! a dry bowl?" asks the landlord disbelievingly, remembering other years. "No, nor a dry lip, neither!" shouts the leader of the band. "So let's begin with a drop of Christmas ale."

Seconded on all sides by his companions, he veers in the direction of the bar. Dressed in a strange medley of costumes and well wrapped up, they look an odd collection. Their faces and voices match the diversity of the outfits, cold-pinched faces and Devon voices that could become dulcet in song or in supplication for Christmas cheer.

Behind the bar things are happening, and it is not long before the thirsty visitors are deep into the waiting wassail bowl. Ale, pungent spices, a dash of brandy, then another for good measure. Roasted apples, their brown-red cheeks bobbing on the surface of the liquor, or hung over the fire, their sweet hot juices dripping

into the brew. No risk there of running out of the magic stuff, for a supplementary vessel brings replenishment. Then it is time for them to leave. Up the hairpin track they go in search of further appreciative audiences for their carols and their thirst.

All Join In

The dances now starts. The music is provided by a lady pianist, a very ancient fiddler, and a very youthful accordionist. But what they might lack in technique is more than compensated for by their cheerfulness and enthusiasm. With the dancers there is no class-consciousness, for the serving-maids, the local farmers and their families and servants, half a dozen sailors from a near-by Naval station, a light-house keeper, and the local grave-digger, all join in with the hotel guests.

During a longish band interval we play peculiar local games, most of them culminating in some bashful male having to kiss some equally bashful girl, amidst great laughter. I don't think these Devon party games can have changed much through the centuries. At last, however, it is time to end. The villagers depart, many of them on a three or four mile journey to their homes, and I seek my cosy room, my comfortable bed.

THE LIFE OF THE PARTY

Your Own Grandfather

Our title sounds pretty silly, doesn't it? Nevertheless, a man can become his own grandfather, verbally at least, and the "how" of it is attributed to Mark Twain who is credited with the famous puzzle. It isn't a quickie puzzle, for it takes close attention to follow the reasoning involved, but if your guests pride themselves on their I. Q.'s you can probably throw them for quite a loss with the following explanation. The I'm-my-own-grandfather man in the puzzle says:

"I married a widow with a grown daughter. My father married my stepdaughter, thus becoming my son-in-law, and my stepdaughter became my stepmother because she was my father's wife."

"My wife gave birth to a son, who was, of course, my father's brother-in-law and my uncle—for he was the half-brother of my stepdaughter who was also my stepmother."

"Accordingly, my wife was my grandmother because she was my stepmother's mother—I was my wife's husband and grandfather at the same time—and as the husband of a person's grandmother is his grandfather, therefore, I am my own grandfather."

Table-Top Trick

After that grandfatherly stuff, you'd better give the table some thing easier. Here's a little trick that requires poker chips, or checkers, or objects of similar size which can be discriminated by colour or shape. Let's say you use white and red poker chips. Take half a dozen of each colour and arrange them as shown below, the white circles representing white chips and the black circles, red ones:



The problem is to make each horizontal row the same colour (i.e. first row all white, second row all red, and so on) by touching and moving only one chip.

Argument Starters

The most dreaded moment at any party is that stark, dumb period when everybody seems to run out of conversational fodder simultaneously. The following self-starters, contributed by Eleanor M. Marshall, are guaranteed to bring any party to life with a vengeance. Drop a few of these verbal mines into the silence and watch them explode on contact. Each begins with the words "What would you do if—"

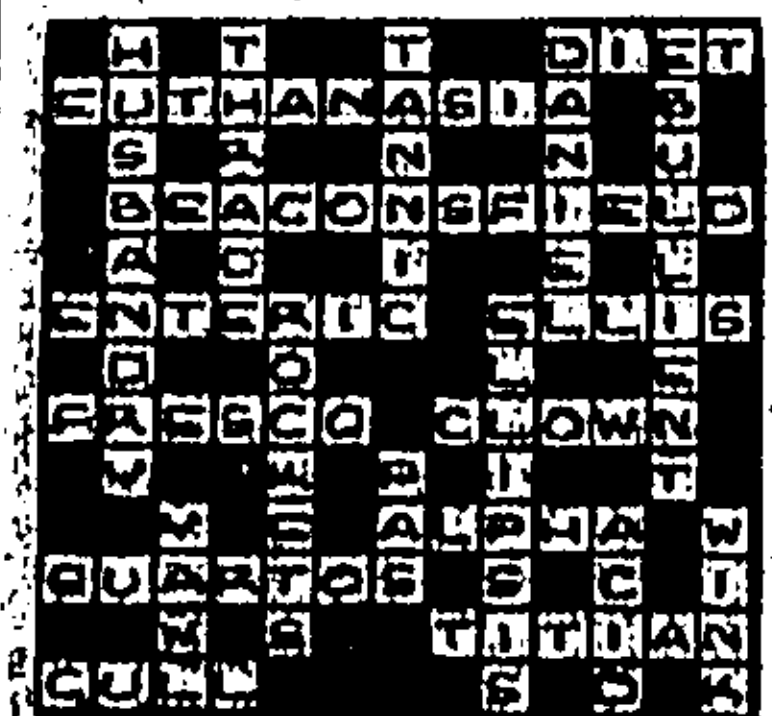
1. Your best friend was deliberately setting out to break up the home of someone you do not know?
2. You, a married person, realize you are falling in love with someone whose good will you must have in order to succeed at your life work?
3. Your employer, a powerful politician, is out to ruin a community in which you have friends by building a dam that is unsafe?

PUZZLE PAGE SOLUTIONS

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1. Hookah, an eastern pipe; hip-pogriff, a fabulous animal; hawkey, a musical instrument; huckaback, a linen fabric; hoopoo, a crested bird; hauberk, a piece of armour.
2. A row of columns round a building.
3. Wide spaces; agoraphobia; water, hydrophobia; high places, acrophobia; close quarters, claustrophobia; strangers, xenophobia.
4. One man was the grandfather of the party. He had two sons, each of whom also had two sons. So there were only seven people for seven beds.

QUIZWORD



The Hidden Seal Is Facing Upwards Between The Other Three Animals.

Indian Problem: The Indian Behind Is The Mother.

4. Your daughter wants to marry a rich man you know she does not love in order to obtain money for a costly operation for you?

5. You need an expert surgeon and the only one available is one who hates you because you refused to marry him?

6. You saw your neighbour hood grower cheat a poor child on ration points and selling of food?

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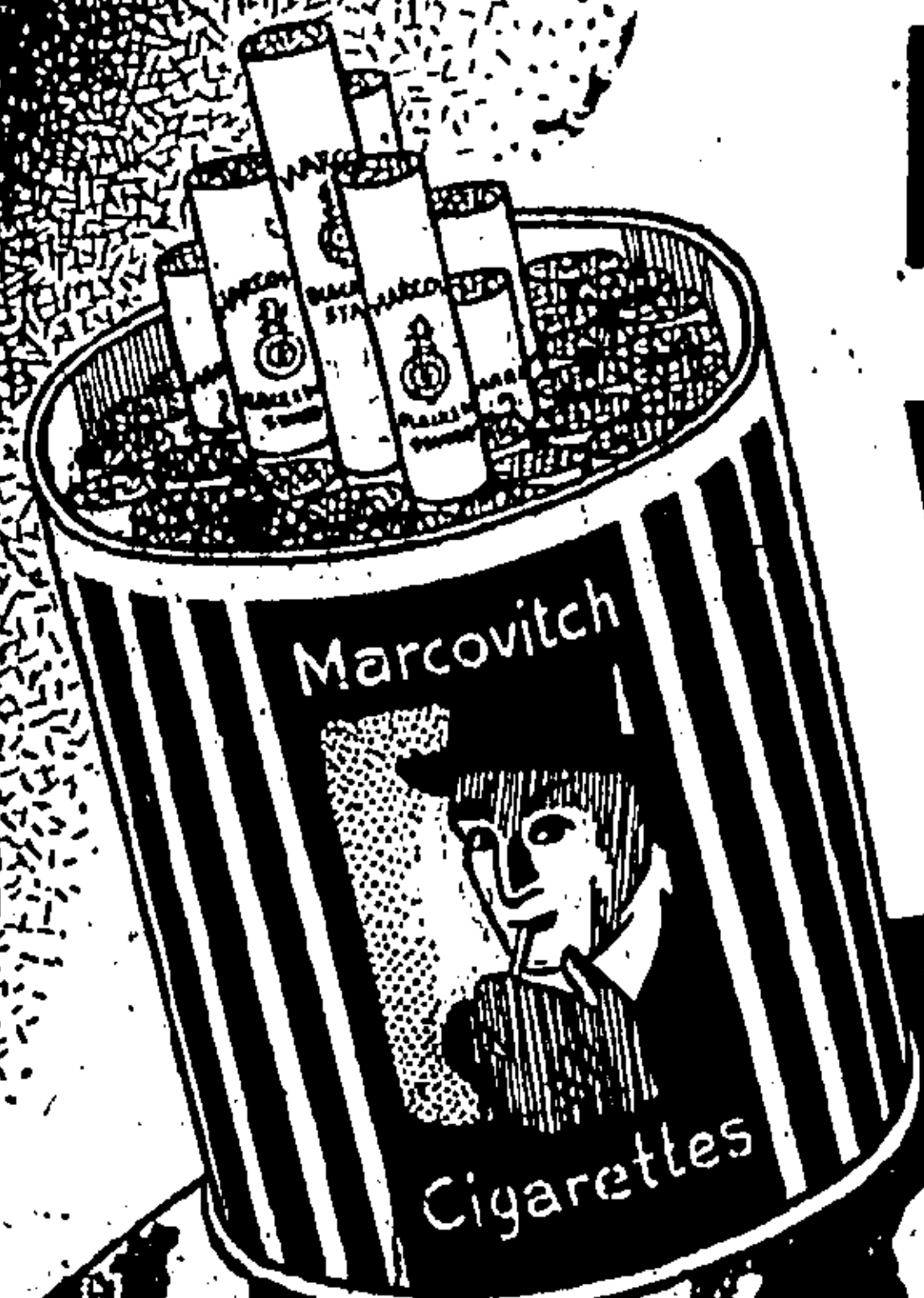
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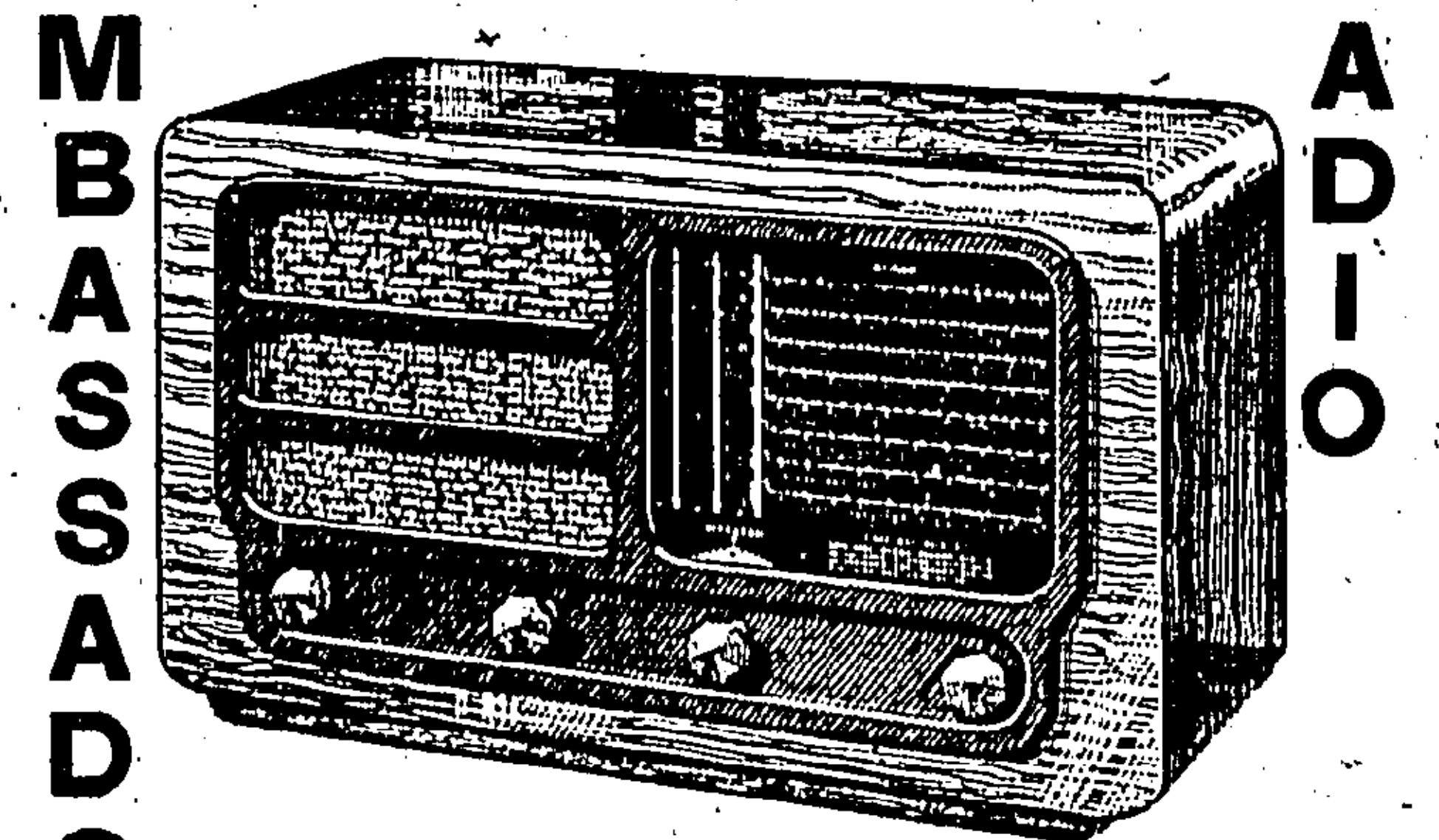
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AN AMUSINGLY WRITTEN SHORT
STORY ABOUT MRS. BLOGGS
A BIRD FOR CHRISTMAS

It was late—very late—on Christmas Eve, and an elderly little party of people sat round the fire in Mrs. Bloggs's cosy kitchen. Mr. Bloggs was nodding a little sleepily. Ethel, his daughter, was knitting frantically at a woollen waistcoat she was finishing for Christmas, and Mrs. Igoulden, Mr. Bloggs's sister, wondered if she dared suggest putting more coal on the dying fire.

"It's no good expectin' Mordie now," said Mrs. Bloggs after a long silence, "I know all along she'd never manage a bird."

"I've never known Mordie fail yet," said Mordie's Mother stoutly. "Set 'er on to any man you like and she'll get anything she wants out of 'im. If she says she'll get a bird for you, get it she will, if it takes 'er all night."

Mrs. Bloggs shook her head sadly. "I thought a bird was too much to ask," she said mournfully. "And 'ow to make the pork go round tomorrow. I'm sure I don't know. If only we hadn't got Will's foreman comin' to dinner, I mean, a bit of pork would do for us but it's hardly the thing to lay before a foreman!"

"Ere she is," said Mrs. Bloggs, got up rather sleepily as the front door bell rang sharply. Everyone sat up eagerly as Mordie Igoulden came in rather wearily from the darkness outside.

"Here's your bird," she said. "And I got it for nothin' too!"

She dropped a vicker basket on the table with a thud. From it protruded the limp head of a handsome grey goose.

"For nothin'?" Mrs. Bloggs stared at the bird distrustfully. "What's the matter with it then?"

"Mordie, who was tired and rather edgy, looked across at her angrily. "Go on! Sniff at it!" she said. "I go and spend hours making up to a red-headed poultier so as to get a bird for our Christmas dinner and you start pickin' 'oles in it!"

Mr. Bloggs, with whom golden-haired Mordie was a great favourite, put his arms round her shoulders affectionately.

"Your Auntie didn't mean no 'arm, duck," he said. "You done splendid. Tell us 'ow you managed it."

"I know, I've seen 'er at it," said Mordie's proud Mother. "She's just got to look up into a feller's face and flap 'er eyelashes at 'im and 'e's 'wain' 'ands."

Mordie smiled.

"Men's easy enough to manage," she said. "All you've got to do is to ferret round and find out their weak spot, and you've got 'em. Everybody's got their weak spot. Every man, at any rate."

"And what's the poultier's weak spot? You?" Mrs. Bloggs spoke a little sharply. She could not help resenting the fact that Mordie's golden radiance, but her quiet mouse-like Ethel in the shade.

Mordie grimaced.

"It's all very well for all of you to make fun," she said. "But I 'aven't 'alf 'ad a job. It's no easy work tryin' to catch the attention of a feller 'on's drovin' chickens with one 'and, as you might say, and tryin' to save 'imself from bein' clawed to death by angry 'ousewives with the other. What some women'll do for food is amazin'!"

"You must 'ave done somethin' pretty drastic yourself to win a goose like that," Mr. Bloggs stroked the limp grey head admiringly.

"I did," Mordie giggled suddenly. "I told 'im—in delicate language, of course—that I'd 'ad a goin' passion for 'im for months."

"Mordie, you didn't!" Her cousin Ethel's plain face flushed a dull purple with horror.

"I did," Mordie smiled reminiscently. "And I told 'im I was bein' forced by my cruel Mum to go out with a man I 'ated because 'e was rich and a greengrocer in 'is own right."

"On Mordie!" Mrs. Igoulden looked reproachfully at her daughter. "As if I'd force you to do anythink!"

"I made you out a perfect 'orse of a Mother," Mordie smiled. "But I've treated him so off-hand till now that I 'ad to think of some excuse. Even then it took hours to bring 'im round, 'im 'avin' a drop of Scotch in 'is blood on the Mother's side. And then I started droppin' a pathetic greengrocer at Christmas dinner, and yearnin' for me own Highland Laidie. That shook 'im, but I shouldn't 'ave landed the goose even then only for a lucky accident."

"What was that?" Her uncle asked, amusedly.

"Well, 'e was givin' a woman some change when 'e suddenly snatched back a 'alfpenny 'e'd given 'er by mistake. Polished quite smooth it was. And all of a sudden it came to me. The man was a shove-'alfpenny addict. So I told 'im we'd got the Walworth Wonder comin' to dinner. Shoved the finest 'alfpenny for miles around, I said. You should've seen 'is eyes! After that it was simple. You could tell 'e'd do anythink to meet the Walworth Wonder. To get an invite to dinner tomorrow 'e'd 'ave given me a emu, 'e'd 'ad it!"

"But Mordie—we 'aven't got a shove-'alfpenny champion comin' tomorrow," objected Ethel, her eyes round with disapproval.

"I know that," Mordie answered sharply. "But if you'd stood in a cold shop, 'e'd 'ave been ready to tell 'im anythink—say, 'e'd 'ave let 'im think Uncle's Foreman 'e's champion—and 'e'd must all 'elp me to keep 'em apart, that's all."

"I don't see it matters once the bird's 'ere," Mrs. Bloggs said.

"Course it does," Mordie said heatedly. "Why, my honour's at stake! You was the chap to think I'm a liar!"

There was a succulent smell of roasting goose when the poultier arrived—some what early—the following day and Mordie's Mother was told off to keep him occupied till the meal was ready.

Hemmed into a corner by Mrs. Igoulden who was determinedly showing him album after album of anapahots, he glared over her head at the greengrocer who arrived next, dressed, as befitted his influence in a very new suit of rather bright purple.

The Foreman, Mr. Dibble and his wife were the last to arrive. Mrs. Dibble was a very ample lady who had on a bright blue dress and creaked as she moved, and her husband had a high, bald forehead, a ginger moustache, and a breadth of shoulder which even the new suit could not have seemed to the poultier to indicate an aptitude for manly sports, for the sight of him made the Scotsman very restive.

"I can't 'old 'im," whispered Mrs. Igoulden to Mordie. "E's like a dog after a rabbit. Every minute I keep expectin' 'im to pounce on that foreman over me dead body!"

So Mordie took her Mother's place, the poultier continued to gaze peacefully at the foreman and she felt uncomfortably conscious that he was only biding his time.

It was a great relief when dinner was at last ready. The poultier, at the opposite end of the table to the foreman was at first too busy eating the excellent goose to think of anythink else.

When the first edge of his appetite was blunted, however, Mordie was unapologetically aware that her neighbour's gaze, somewhat glazed certainly by now, was fixing itself more and more on the rather vacant, but happy, face of Mr. Dibble who, having undone his waistcoat was attacking his second plateful.

"Am I r-r-right in thinkin'?" Sizzler—began the poultier in a loud voice.

"Mordie! Pass Mr. McDougall's plate for more stuffing," called her watchful Mother.

The danger was averted for a moment, but the poultier was not easily turned from his purpose. Again and again he half rose from his seat, his eyes fixed upon the unconscious Dibble, and began, "Am I r-r-right in thinkin'?" But Mordie always managed to stop him, either by offering him beer, ramming a paper cap on his head or calling to him to help her to pull a cracker.

Still, the strain was telling on her. She had no time to devote to the greengrocer on her left and he grew sulkier and sulkier. She could almost feel him grudging the oranges and

Christmas To Be Televised

Novelties and old favourites will be combined in Britain's television programme this Christmas so as to appeal both to the regular army of viewers and the great influx of newcomers and Christmas guests who may be "seeing" radio for the first time. The festivities really begin on Sunday, December 21, with a Christmas Children's Hour introducing Puppet Variety and a Christmas story. Children of all ages will be catered for on the same evening with a full-length version of "Road to Toad Hall", the Kenneth Grahame fantasy.

The Christmas spirit will gather strength on Monday, December 22 with a Christmas cartoon programme and an all-conjuring session arranged by the Magicians' Circle. Next day the theme will be Christmas cookery before the cameras. Illustrated hints for the much harassed housewife, arranging decorations and the Christmas dinner; there will also be a musical programme by Gerald and his Concert Orchestra—the largest musical combination (45 players) that can be accommodated in the television studios.

On Christmas Eve the outstanding item will be the ancient Coventry Nativity Play, said to be 700 years old, which in its long history has been performed in churches, travelling theatre booths, farmhouses, barns and quite recently in the crypt of the blitzed cathedral of Coventry.

On Christmas Day one of the television mobile units will be operating a famous "Star and Garter" Home for Wounded Ex-Servicemen at Richmond, near London, where the men have their factory for the commemorative poppies which are sold each year on Armistice Day. Nat Allen, one of the most popular of young dance band leaders, will be there with his Orchestra to accompany the men and their nurses in a Song Session after Christmas dinner.

Boxing Day will be a great day for the children with two half-hour dance programmes—the ever popular Bert and Ernie Circus from the sawdust ring at Olympia, London. Two more visits to the Circus will be one of the features on Christmas Saturday.

Why Buy Gifts for Exchange?



By ROSE ZELIGS

Christmas day with all its excitement! The family is gathered around the tree, Marcella opens a big box with her name. Quickly she pulls the carefully folded tissue aside. A beautiful blue rayon silk housecoat! She tries it on and runs to the mirror. A perfect fit. "Leave it to Ann to know!" Marcella exclaims, gives her sister a big hug, and walks around, looking like a queen.

Mom opens her package from Dad. "What a lovely dress! And just the right style and colour." "Do you like it, Mom?" Dad's eyes brighten.

"It is beautiful, Dad." Mom kisses him on his bald spot. "I'll hang it right up before it gets mussed," and she hurries into the bedroom. She wouldn't let on to him that she wears a size 40 not 34. She hopes it will be available in her size so that she can exchange it without Dad knowing. How she dreads to go to those crowded stores tomorrow.

Bill, Jane's husband, is examining three white shirts. "Baby, these are really beautiful. You know how badly I need shirts since I'm out of the Army." His long arms reach out and encircle her waist.

He lifts his bride in his arms and swings her onto the couch. But Jane is thinking very fast. She hadn't realised his arms were so long. Aren't men's clothes funny? Imagining buying a dress with different sleeve sizes. Tomorrow she must exchange those shirts before Bill finds out.

The next morning, although the stores are crowded with people returning gifts, the manager of the men's shop is very nice. Luckily he found the same shirts in the right sleeve size. "I haven't done much shopping in men's clothes," Jane tells him. "Madame," he explains, "let me give you a few hints. Our greatest trouble with women buyers is due to wrong sizes. Specify the exact size. Robes and pajamas come in small, medium, large, and extra large. If you know the size suit a man wears, the clerk can always tell you what size pajamas or robe to buy. Get the height, weight, and waist-line measurements. Take a pair of your husband's trousers. Carefully measure the waistline. To get the length measure the inseam. Write down the measurements and carry them with you for future reference. Look in his shoes. Look at his socks to get the exact size. That's all there is to it." He smiles as Jane thanks him.

In the dress department Mom luckily finds her size in the same style dress, but it is green instead of blue. "It's pretty and I'll take it," she decides. For once she is thankful that her husband is colour-blind. "I'm sorry to trouble you, but my husband still thinks I wear the same size I did when he married me thirty years ago."

The saleswoman nods her head. "I've been in this business for forty years. Nine out of every ten dresses sold to men are returned. They'll say, 'She's about as big as that girl standing over there.' All they want is to take a box home, with the privilege of exchange if it doesn't suit."

I was informed by various department stores that wrong size is the chief reason for returning gifts. Next to size is colour.

When you spot some exciting ornament or attractive picture, it's fun to surprise your friend with a gift. But will it fit in with Virginia's home furnishings? When in doubt, don't buy it.

When buying accessories like purses or gloves, note the color of coats and suits with which they will be worn. Some women like large purses while others prefer smaller ones. Note the size and style that seems to appeal to the woman for whom the gift is intended.

"Do people like to give merchandise orders or gift certificates?" I asked a buyer.

"Well, people like to give a thing they can see. With a merchandise order they buy what they can use. Soon many new things will be on the market and some people would rather have a merchandise order is always safe even if it isn't exciting."

When you give a gift, let it be out of a desire to bring pleasure to the recipient.

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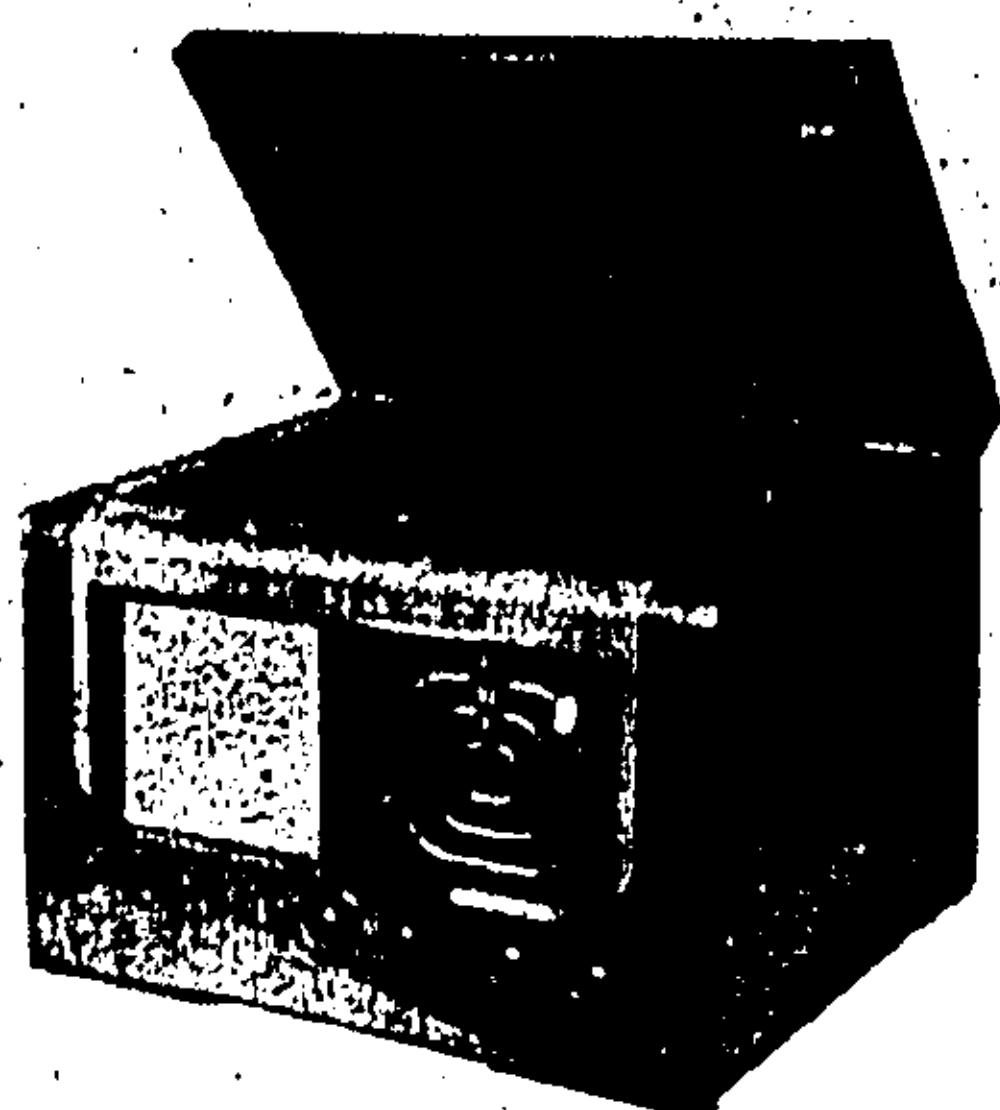


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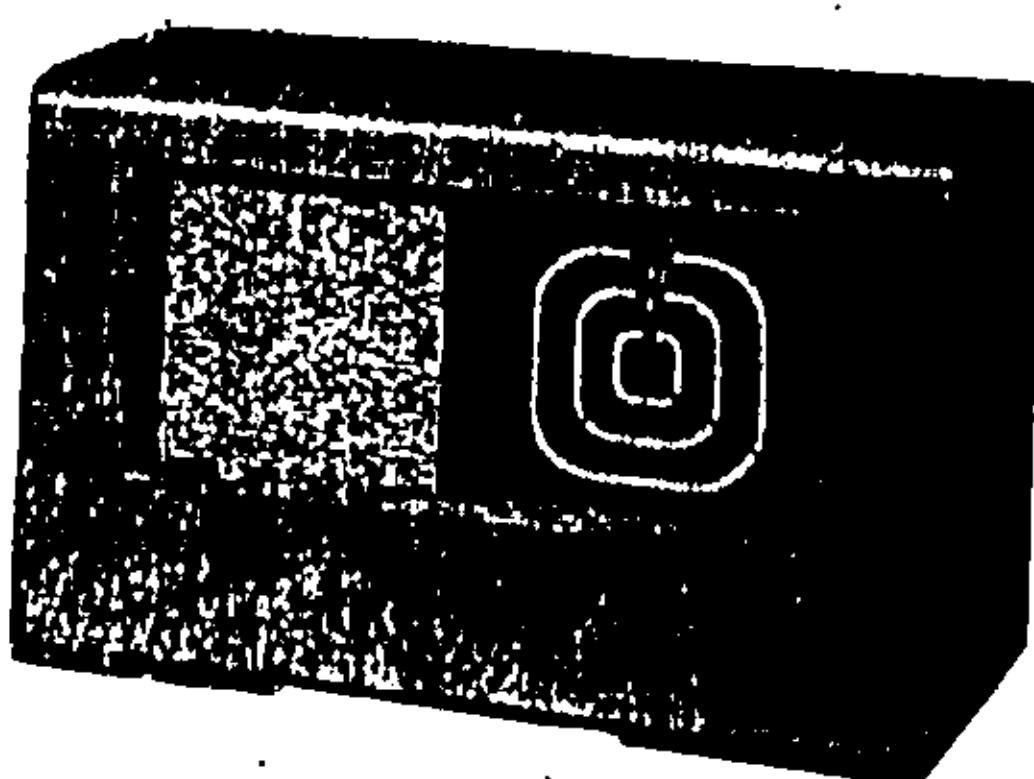
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A Short Xmas

Story

Bending over the ramshackle buggy, she had salvaged from a rubbish heap, Etta Mae put the cover over her doll and tucked in the ragged edges. The cover was a dingy greyish pink and in the centre of it was a brown scorched place, shaped like an iron. Beneath it, the doll's cotton-stuffed stocking body made a barely discernible little hummock. The faded painted features on the grubby, ribbed-lisle face were completely devoid of expression. The pale, pale eyes stared up at nothing at all. The small vague mouth was neither happy nor sad. The doll had no chin, no neck. The end of the stocking had been pulled down about its nonexistent ears, stitched, turned up, stitched again, and embellished with a pompon from a bedroom slipper. Although it was the only doll Etta Mae had ever possessed, she had never really liked it. Not even when it was new. The Christmas week she had learned she was going to receive a doll she had been aglow with anticipation. She had found her mother's Christmas list and after her own name had been the magical word, doll.

She had spent the remainder of the week trying to settle upon an appropriate name. The day before Christmas it had come to her, out of nowhere, unfolding within her like the petals of a flower, dissolving her other tentative selections into dust. Drusilla. It had a beautiful soft singing sound. Just right!

She had sung it to herself, secretly, her and over, during the rest of the dreary day, and her heart had repeated it—Drusilla—Drusilla—Drusilla—while she finished stitching the pompon and pasted the last scissored bits of coloured paper into a chain of rings to festoon the tree. She had gone to bed, warm with the sweet hollow happiness of expectation, the delicious drowsy knowledge that when she awakened, Drusilla would be waiting for her under the tree. An exquisite, curly-haired Drusilla with dainty manners, and dimples, and maybe an organ, and dress. With a pocket in it. And a bonnet and a coat, extra.

And then, Christmas morning and the dreadful unbelieving instant when she had raced into the front room and had come to a stricken halt to stare, appalled, at the stocking doll propped underneath the tree branches. The slow realization welling up in her throat. The sinking emptiness.

She had called the doll Louella. Now, standing by the lilac bush in the front yard in the early afternoon sunlight, her skimpy dress fluttering like a capricious May breeze, she peered in at Louella for a long moment, she snatched her up and gave her a shake.

"You better mind your p's and q's!" she said. "Or you're going to catch it!" She plopped her doll under its dragged cover and wheeled it off toward the vacant house that sat well back from the sidewalk in a porch-high tangle of wheat grass and neglected shrubbery.

She was afraid of the vacant house. Still, it held a pulling attraction. She was fascinated by the blank, blind windows, the steep, sloping roof, and the way it appeared, sometimes, in the dying sun—as if it were ablaze. She lacked the courage to enter it and envied the fearless few who, during its first tenanted months, had explored it thoroughly. One blowy March day she had ventured a short distance up the walk but had fled precipitously when, somewhere, a loose shutter had banged. Bolting, she had known it to be a shutter, but she hadn't checked her headlong flight. Nor had she stayed another visit. In fact, no one went there any more. Having been exhaustively investigated, its appeal had worn off and it had yet to reach the stage where it could radiate an aura of being "haunted."

Nearing it, Etta Mae slackened her brisk pace, but her gaze, traveling over the familiar grounds, was both absent and preoccupied as she debated whether or not to make up with Nellie Haggerty, her best friend, who lived three doors farther on. She tried to remember what it was they had fallen out about. It had had to do with the purple feather plume they shared between them when they played dress-up, but the details of the dispute eluded her. Whatever it was, she had vowed heatedly never to speak to Nellie again, and Nellie, equally as furious, had responded in kind.

But it wasn't much fun to play by yourself, Etta Mae thought glumly. You ran out of what to do. And Nellie's packing-box made an excellent playhouse, even if they could get in it only one at a time. Etta Mae's countenance brightened. It wouldn't hurt to walk past Nellie's, she told herself. She could sort of slow down and pretend to be looking at something interesting, or she could stop and fix Louella's blanket. Anyway, it wouldn't put her out any just to walk past.

Nellie Haggerty slipped at her ball with listless abstraction. She was bored, and, at the age of seven years, boredom is not a deadly gnawing sickness but an itch, impossibly placed. Becoming aware of Etta Mae's approach, she began bouncing her ball with great outward show of activity, smacking it vigorously with the flat of her palm, pausing it under her first toe leg and then the other. "Got to see my fella's coat!" she intoned, seemingly absorbed in her game. "How many patches does it need. One, two, three, four—"

Surprisingly she noted that Etta Mae was fusing with her doll blanket tucked under Etta Mae's misadventure, made a desperate attempt to keep the ball in motion, lost her balance and fell down with a plump on the row of mud-pies drying on the bottom step. Etta Mae laughed. She wasn't laughing at Nellie. It had been a funny thing, and she was laughing at the funniness. But Nellie's

fall had been a variety of things. A little fear, a little thrill, a little surprise. Surprisingly, it was a rather pleasant little fearful thrill. No, nothing. Any second now it was liable to happen to her! Etta Mae looked about at her surroundings. Shaded by stately trees and encircled by clipped shrubbery, well-to-do houses after homes, white with green shutters and banks of rhododendrons. Some houses with brick ones in a variety of



Drusilla By Jane Rice

shades from pinky red to a soft yellow. Some old. Some new. All with wide deep lawns the colour of Easter-basket grass. All with tulips, and anemones, and purple flags, and curving driveways, and pillars, and verandas, and sunporches, and tea-ing half-climbers of spacious backyards with more trees and grass and flowers and hedges.

A moving van was being unloaded beside an imposing birthday-cake of a house girdled by a tall, forbidding iron fence. Etta Mae, engrossed in the van, bumped squarely into a doll carriage of maroon leather and chrome angled against the fence. She eyed it with breathless wonder, thinking it in.

Such a doll pram there never was! She parked her derelict vehicle beside it and putting her hands behind her, peeked into the maroon interior. Asleep beneath a quilted-satin coverlet was a doll with golden ringlets of curls, and an adorable pinch of a nose, and a dimpled chin.

Oh, to own a doll like that! To be able to cuddle it, and rock it, and sing it to sleep. Just to be able to hold it.

She flung a searching glance of reconnaissance at the birthday-cake house. Her hands unclasped, crept from behind her and into the carriage. She eased the doll free, carefully, so as not to awaken it, and cradled it in her hungry arms. She snuggled her cheek against its silky hair, and crooned a little tuneless lullaby. When the song was finished, she fluffed the cunning, laced doll pillow and stopped to return the doll to its rightful place. Faintly, it said, "Ma—ma—ma." Etta Mae almost dropped it. Its eyes winked blue, closed, and then opened by slow blue degrees as Etta Mae gently stood it up on its tiny white kid shoes. Etta Mae regarded Etta Mae steadily, and Etta Mae, her heart drumming against her ribs, swallowed a huge mouthful of air and, suddenly grabbing the doll from its nest of lace and linen and satin, she thrust it out of sight under Louella's soiled pink blanket. Turned quickly about, she hastened off towards the street-car tracks, and safety.

Safety, however, had ceased to be. If anything, the block where she lived was more perilous than those she had recently quitted. It felt as if it were full of eyes. And there was nowhere to go.

Suppose Mike, Gilhooley, or Dodge, or somebody, dashed out and snatched Louella's blanket? Or upset the buggy? Suppose she should meet Clatie—or a pacified Nellie who was willing to let bygones be bygones—found out. Her father! Oh glory, suppose big like, the policeman, should chance along.

Suppose—suppose—suppose— She lengthened her stride and, passing the church, it was all she could do to restrain her anxious self from breaking into a full-fledged gallop. Turning the corner, she narrowly avoided a collision with Mrs. O'Toole.

"Yes'm," Mrs. O'Toole said, smiling. "aren't we in a hurry?" "Yes'm," Etta Mae said. "I mean no'm." She shifted uneasily from one foot to the other. "I mean—"

"Taking your dolly for an airing, I see." "Yes'm," Etta Mae said. "Well, well, and might I be inquiring her name?" "Drusilla. I—I mean Louella," Etta Mae stammered, cuddling her doll for an excuse to escape. Mrs. O'Toole's amiable, beaming regard, inspiration seized her. "She's got summer complaint. I got to get her home and give her some pills," she ducked by Mrs. O'Toole's generous bulk and, accelerating slightly as she went past the Haggerty's, she hurried up the street. Drawing absent of her goal, Etta Mae cast a raking look around. Mrs. O'Toole was crowding Elm, Mr. Garrity was busy calling things on his roof. Mrs. Carney was shaking a rug; now she was going in. From the noles emanating from Feighan's alley, the ice wagon was going through and the kids were tugging it. No one was paying any attention. No one was noticing. An sidely jump forward in her throat she gulped it down and, snuggling her doll, she hurried on, and leaped up the walk. Several minutes later, secure from detection, she sat cross-legged in the moon-

shades from pinky red to a soft yellow. Some old. Some new. All with wide deep lawns the colour of Easter-basket grass. All with tulips, and anemones, and purple flags, and curving driveways, and pillars, and verandas, and sunporches, and tea-ing half-climbers of spacious backyards with more trees and grass and flowers and hedges.

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Such a doll pram there never was! She parked her derelict vehicle beside it and putting her hands behind her, peeked into the maroon interior. Asleep beneath a quilted-satin coverlet was a doll with golden ringlets of curls, and an adorable pinch of a nose, and a dimpled chin.

Oh, to own a doll like that! To be able to cuddle it, and rock it, and sing it to sleep. Just to be able to hold it.

She flung a searching glance of reconnaissance at the birthday-cake house. Her hands unclasped, crept from behind her and into the carriage. She eased the doll free, carefully, so as not to awaken it, and cradled it in her hungry arms. She snuggled her cheek against its silky hair, and crooned a little tuneless lullaby. When the song was finished, she fluffed the cunning, laced doll pillow and stopped to return the doll to its rightful place. Faintly, it said, "Ma—ma—ma." Etta Mae almost dropped it. Its eyes winked blue, closed, and then opened by slow blue degrees as Etta Mae gently stood it up on its tiny white kid shoes. Etta Mae regarded Etta Mae steadily, and Etta Mae, her heart drumming against her ribs, swallowed a huge mouthful of air and, suddenly grabbing the doll from its nest of lace and linen and satin, she thrust it out of sight under Louella's soiled pink blanket. Turned quickly about, she hastened off towards the street-car tracks, and safety.

Safety, however, had ceased to be. If anything, the block where she lived was more perilous than those she had recently quitted. It felt as if it were full of eyes. And there was nowhere to go.

Suppose Mike, Gilhooley, or Dodge, or somebody, dashed out and snatched Louella's blanket? Or upset the buggy? Suppose she should meet Clatie—or a pacified Nellie who was willing to let bygones be bygones—found out. Her father! Oh glory, suppose big like, the policeman, should chance along.

Suppose—suppose—suppose— She lengthened her stride and, passing the church, it was all she could do to restrain her anxious self from breaking into a full-fledged gallop. Turning the corner, she narrowly avoided a collision with Mrs. O'Toole.

"Yes'm," Mrs. O'Toole said, smiling. "aren't we in a hurry?" "Yes'm," Etta Mae said. "I mean no'm." She shifted uneasily from one foot to the other. "I mean—"

"Taking your dolly for an airing, I see." "Yes'm," Etta Mae said. "Well, well, and might I be inquiring her name?" "Drusilla. I—I mean Louella," Etta Mae stammered, cuddling her doll for an excuse to escape. Mrs. O'Toole's amiable, beaming regard, inspiration seized her. "She's got summer complaint. I got to get her home and give her some pills," she ducked by Mrs. O'Toole's generous bulk and, accelerating slightly as she went past the Haggerty's, she hurried up the street. Drawing absent of her goal, Etta Mae cast a raking look around. Mrs. O'Toole was crowding Elm, Mr. Garrity was busy calling things on his roof. Mrs. Carney was shaking a rug; now she was going in. From the noles emanating from Feighan's alley, the ice wagon was going through and the kids were tugging it. No one was paying any attention. No one was noticing. An sidely jump forward in her throat she gulped it down and, snuggling her doll, she hurried on, and leaped up the walk. Several minutes later, secure from detection, she sat cross-legged in the moon-

shades from pinky red to a soft yellow. Some old. Some new. All with wide deep lawns the colour of Easter-basket grass. All with tulips, and anemones, and purple flags, and curving driveways, and pillars, and verandas, and sunporches, and tea-ing half-climbers of spacious backyards with more trees and grass and flowers and hedges.

A moving van was being unloaded beside an imposing birthday-cake of a house girdled by a tall, forbidding iron fence. Etta Mae, engrossed in the van, bumped squarely into a doll carriage of maroon leather and chrome angled against the fence. She eyed it with breathless wonder, thinking it in.

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One of the most popular Christmas institutions has long been the cracker. In olden days the sharp crack from which it took its name was the principal, and often its only feature, accompanied by female exclamations of: "I know I shall scream!" Since then the cracker has undergone gradual development, becoming a receptacle for bonbons, mottoes, and little paper caps. Today the cracker is still a good way to start a Christmas party and break the ice with a loud nostalgic bang.

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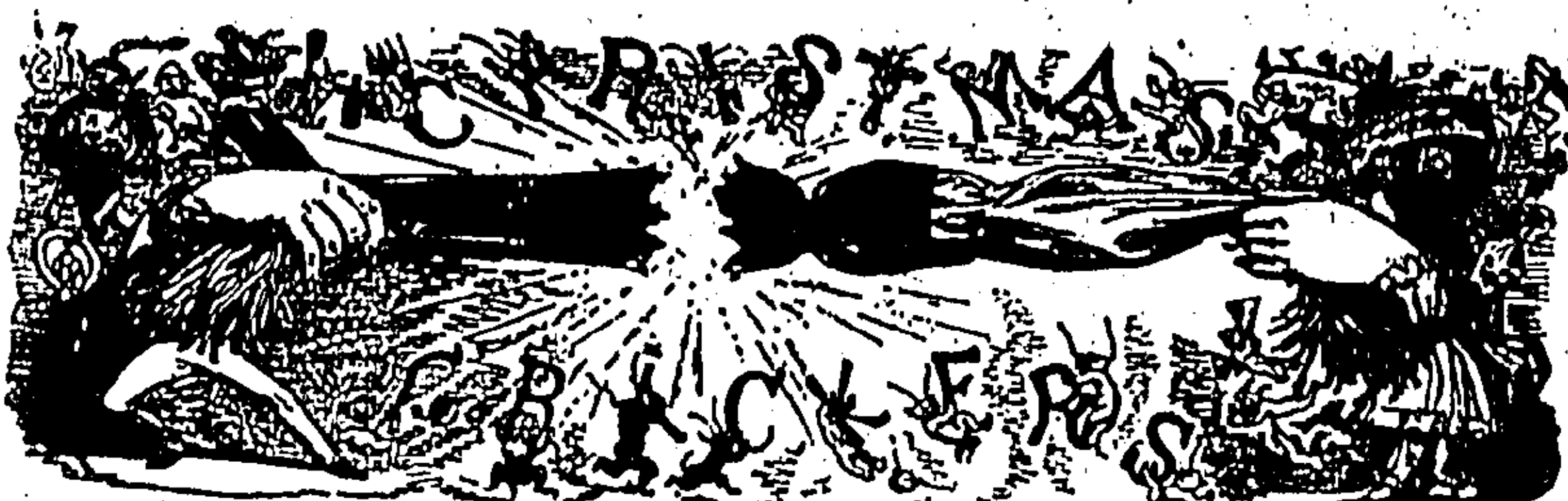
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A girl knocked loudly at the sty door on Christmas Eve; if a great hog grunted first in reply, her predestined husband would be an old man; if it was a little pig, that gave promise of a young one.

When the player has thought of a number, tell her to double it, then to add four to it, to multiply the whole by five, and to the product add twelve, and afterward multiply the total by ten. From the sum thus produced, bid her deduct 320 and inform you what is the remainder, which if you take away the last two figures from it, will give you the number she thought of.

(Fill in the blanks, and complete the description of St. Nick as done in "Twas the Night Before Christmas).

1. His cheeks were like —;
2. His nose like a —.
3. His droll little mouth was drawn up like a —.
4. His little round belly shook, when he laughed, like a —.



Pin on the back of each guest the name of some toy, such as an electric train, a woolly dog, a doll, et cetera. Each guest tries to learn what is on her back by asking questions. All questions must be answered correctly. One may ask "Am I a jumping Jack?" or any other question. When anyone has learned what toy she represents, she may take the name from her back, pin it in front and retire smugly from the game.

The ashes of the Christmas log were supposed to give fertility to the ground, to rid cattle of vermin, to cure toothache and to protect the house from fire and ill luck. But to throw them out on Christmas Day would be criminal; it would be "throwing ashes in the Saviour's face!"

A sheeted tablecloth is fastened up at one end of the room, and Buff (the person chosen to be it) is seated on a low stool facing the cloth. A lighted candle is placed on a table four or five feet behind her; it is the light of this candle that the fellow players, next pair in succession, behold as they enter the room, and her, distorting their features in as grotesque a manner as possible, hopping, limping, and dressing themselves in disguises so as to make their shadows very unlike those of the person whose shadow they are, she guesses to whom the shadows belong, and if she guesses correctly the player whose shadow she recognizes takes her place. Buff is allowed only one guess for each person, and must then be left to see whether the right person has been chosen. In the playing the game, those who have played Buff often pay forfeits.

A good paper-and-pencil game that brings out the latent artist in everyone: Divide your guests into two teams, post a large block of paper at one end of the room and provide black chalk or charcoal. Both teams secretly compose a list of Christmas mottoes, Christmas books, songs, etc. cetera. (For example, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, The First Noel, etc. cetera.) One team is "it." Each person

in that team in turn receives a motto or song from the other team and then must draw it on the paper (not answering any questions) for her own team to guess. The team is timed on how long it takes for it to draw and guess the answers. Then the other team does likewise, and the side which guesses the answers in the shortest time wins.

1. What two popular Christmas customs are attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi?
2. Which of the four Gospels tell the story of the Nativity?
3. Who is Kris Kringle?
4. Who is credited with introducing the Christmas tree into England?
5. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of boys; who is the patron saint of girls whose name is also commemorated at Christmas in many countries?
6. The names of what towns in the United States honour the holiday season?

When a girl opened her Christmas savings bank she discovered that she had just one hundred coins in half dollars, pennies and dimes. When she counted her money she found that she had exactly five dollars. How many coins had she of each denomination?

Mrs. Johnson (*nee* White) gave a Christmas dinner for her family and 'others' at a restaurant. The three Johnsons and the three Whites did not get along, and the problem was to get them all home without causing a family row. The two-seater Baby Austin held only the driver and a passenger. There was only one car to get them all home (conversation note), and only one White (Bill, Mrs. Johnson's brother), could drive, while all the Johnsons were experts at the wheel. The Whites could never outnumber the Johnsons while they were waiting to be driven home, or else they would start an argument. How did they all get home?

One favourite sport of considerable antiquity, but especially associated with Christmas Eve is snapdragon. A quantity of raisins or other dried fruit is placed on a broad shallow dish, brandy is poured over it and set on fire. The guests in turn snatch the fruit out of the blaze, to do which without being scorched takes some dexterity. It is usual to extinguish all the lights in the room while the game is in progress.

My First is of illustrious line,
Of beauteous form and face
divine;
Which when my Second does
assail,
Both form and beauty then do
fall;
My Whole an arduous task to
do
With wives who hoity-toity
ways pursue.

My First's a little busy thing.
My Second ladies do,
Impelled by love their flight to
wing
My Whole—say, what are you?
An animal of swiftest pace,
Endowed with beauty, strength,
and grace.

What are two of the few words in the English language wherein the five vowels follow each other in their proper order?

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XMAS EVE-December 24th
GALA DINNER DANCE
7:30-11:30 p.m.

SPECIAL DINNER DANCE
11:15 a.m.

December 31st
GALA DINNER, DANCE
III 2 2-10

XMAS EVE-December 24th
SPECIAL DINNER DANCE
til 2 a.m.

SPECIAL DINNER DANCE
 7:00 P.M.

December 31st
SPECIAL DINNER DANCE
8:00 P. M.



The suspending of a stocking as a receptacle for the expected gifts is accounted for by a story that St. Nicholas, on one of his midnight expeditions, climbed up on a roof and dropped a purse down the chimney. Instead of falling on the hearth, it fell into a stocking hung up to dry.

A paper and pencil game that isn't too involved and doesn't lead to interminably complex is the Christmas poetry game. Invite your guests to bring, give them each paper and a pencil, and ask them to compose a line of poetry on a Christmas theme (if you wish to be erudite, make them do it in iambic pentameter). Then each player should double the paper under, leaving only the last word exposed, and pass it to the left to his neighbor. Then each player writes another line of poetry, the last word of which must rhyme with the word exposed. The poems are passed to the right, and the circle is completed. When the poems are finally read, they are read out loud, and usually found to be both incoherent and humorous.

Ye Good Olde Days
Ten many talk of country Christ-
masse—
"hiv thirty yownd battered 1999,
their plot of carol toasts,
Their phantasies drenched with am-
brosia, the carolers
Of three, for wethers bruised for
gravy, for
Milk sauce for a single peasant
yet their faith
Went full, mingled with the
city."

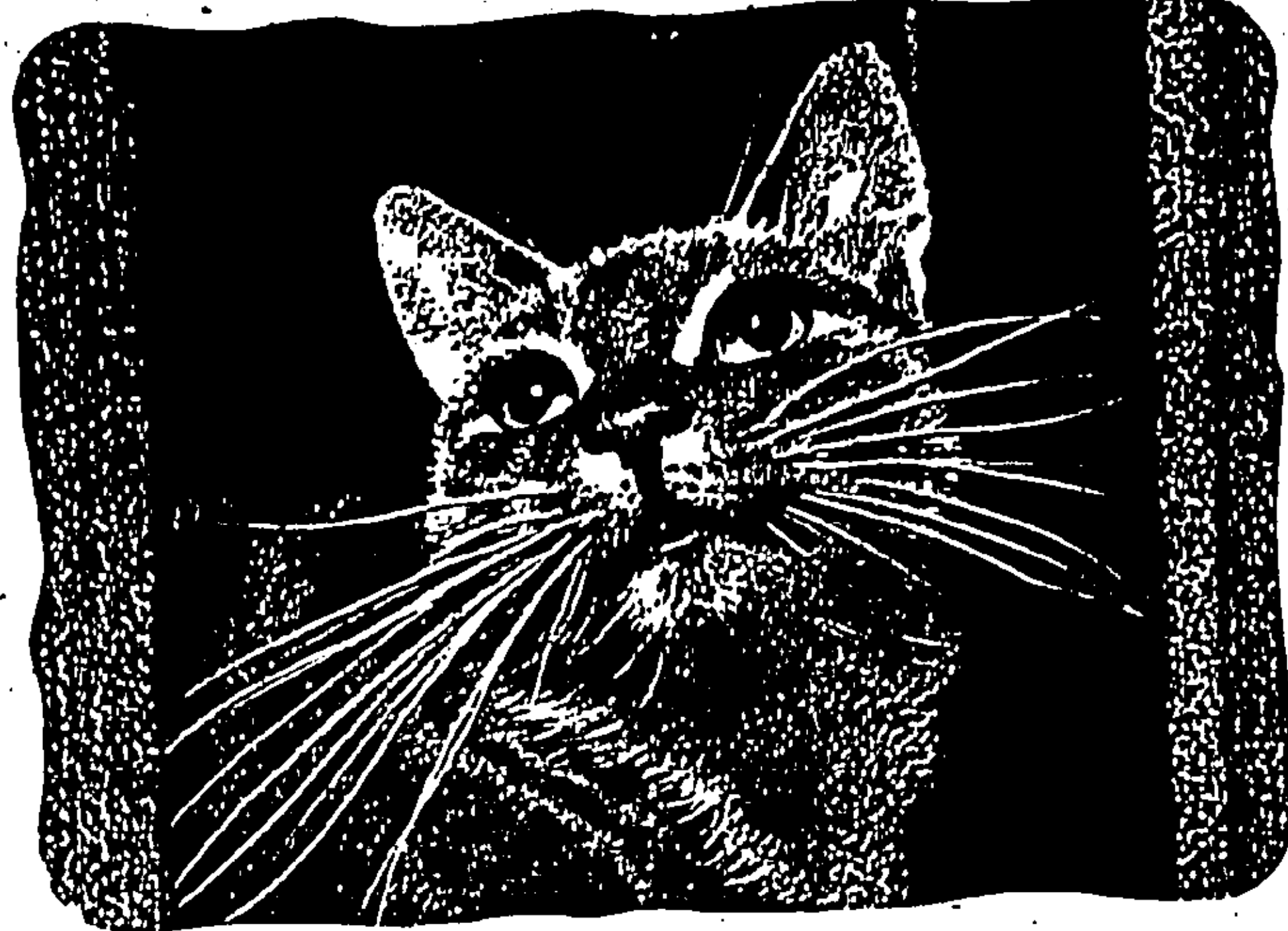


In the days when the stage coach was the only means of getting from place to place, the "stages" were the journey from inn to inn. At each stop driver, postilion and passengers refreshed themselves with beer. Experience had taught them that a draught of good malt liquor was the best means of throwing off the weariness of the last stage and gaining strength for the next.

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DRUSILLA

A CHRISTMAS STORY
Continued from Page Six

process. "Yesterday I got up to overs and unders. You want a turn?"

Etta Mae hesitated. "Where'd you go yesterday?" Nellie queried. "We hooked from the ice wagon. I saved you a piece. But it got drippy, so I ate it. Where'd you go?"

Etta Mae had an impulse to tell Nellie. Tell it all. Spill it out. The whole of it. But she discarded the notion, immediately. The crime was too heinous. And Nellie could hold it over her until she died. And, besides, Drusilla was *here*—that is, until she took her back like she'd promised—and not for anybody else to go messing with.

"You go to the park?" Nellie pressed.

"None of your business," Etta Mae said.

"Well!" Nellie snapped. "If I'd thought you was going to act so screwy, I wouldn't have went out of my way to speak to you at all!"

"Nobody asked you to!" Etta Mae retorted.

"You think you're smart, don't you?"

"Not half as smart as you think you are!"

"I don't care where you went! I don't care *how* you went there and never came back! You can go to grass for all of me, Etta Mae Logsdon!"

"Oh, shut up!"

"Shut up, yourself! You're a you-know-what, and you eat leavings!"

That does it, Etta Mae thought. I won't speak to her again, ever!

Nevertheless, in her heart, Etta Mae knew she had been at fault. She refused to acknowledge it.

What did the cat do? She had Drusilla. Drusilla was worth ten Nellies. A hundred. Drusilla was worth anything. Of course, she had sworn to take her back and she would, so she would. But she hadn't said *when*. Tomorrow after school, she thought. Tomorrow after school, she argued with her nagging conscience.

Monday came and went. And Tuesday. And Wednesday. And at the close of each day, Etta Mae renewed her pledge to return Drusilla to-morrow.

The days, however, had taken their toll. The furtive secrecy, so vitally necessary, had become a tortuous labyrinth paved with lies that varied from light gray to a deep jet black. Her culpability was an ever-increasing pressure. She was hog-ridden and beset.

Sunday was on its way. Wednesday night she awakened, sobbing, from a fearful dream.

Thursday it rained. Furthermore, she had to stay in after school and, walking home, she was conveyed by Mrs. O'Toole. And she forgot her rubbers, leaving them in the cloak room, and her feet were sopping, and her mother not only wouldn't let her go out again but punished her for being sassy. What was infinitely worse, her father gave her a talking to when he came home, and as a crowning touch she was sent upstairs to bed without any supper for thumbing her nose when she thought her parents weren't looking.

"I don't know what's gotten into you lately," her mother said, pulling Etta Mae's nightgown over her head. "It seems to me—here, bend your elbows, how do you expect—And take that look off your face. Kneel down there and say your prayers."

Etta Mae knelt and made a pious tent of her hands.

"I said to say your prayers."

"I am saying them."

"Well, say them out loud and all things considered, I think you can commence with a good Act of Contrition."

"Oh, my God," Etta Mae began, "I'm heartily sorry for having offended Thee. I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven 'n' the pains of fire."

"And the pains of—" her mother prompted.

"And the pains of—" Etta Mae swallowed.

"And the pains of hell!"

"And the pains of—of—" Etta Mae's voice faltered and broke. She burst into tears.

Friday was leaden and damp. Lead and damp, it swined a fatal, suspended weight above Etta Mae's head, and it grew heavier and heavier as the day progressed. It went dizzyingly fast. Lessons, recess, lunch hour, with her sandwiches going down in dry, unchewable hunks, more lessons—and, throughout it all, the frantic ticking of the clock on Sister's desk. Before it seemed possible, there was the final flurry of corrected papers, the hurried dusting of the chalk erasers, the homework assignment, and the loud *brrrrrrrrr* of the bell in the corridor—like a sentence of death from which there was no reprieve.

Wretched, miserable, slow-footed, Etta Mae started home. The way was all too short, despite her lagging step. In front of Parker's, on the ground just inside the gate, was a doll's leg. It wore a white kid shoe. As in a trance, Etta Mae stooped and picked it up. Her eyes flew ahead to the vacant house.

A moment later, crawling under the porch, she very nearly screamed. She cast one horrified glance at Drusilla's scattered remains, and, scrambling out crabwise, she ran blindly, wildly, for sanctuary.

Her mother was in the kitchen. She sat Etta Mae in a chair and wiped her face with a cold cloth. She held her hands and, piece by piece, drew the truth from her. She straightened.

"Stay here," she said. "I'll be back directly." She untied her apron, hung it on the hook, took a shopping bag, and left. When she returned, there was a cobweb in her hair and a smudge on her nose. The shopping-bag was loaded with Drusilla's grisly corpse.

"All right," she said. "Go on upstairs and wash."

A wordless question framed itself in Etta Mae's eyes.

"We're going to see about it," her mother said. "There's nothing else to do."

"You mean—mean—"

"I mean exactly what I said. Go wash."

Walking up the driveway to the flagstone path that led to the sprawling veranda of the birthday-cake house, Etta Mae felt herself getting smaller and smaller. When her mother knocked with the big brass knocker, she sent an ardent prayer, soaring heavenwards that a bolt of lightning would fork from the oppressive sky and frizzle her to a crisp.

The door opened. A maid—right out of the movies!—wearing a black dress, an apron the size of a handkerchief and a frilly cap to match, said, "Yes?" From the way she said it, Etta Mae could tell she didn't think they amounted to much.

Instead of asking for the lady of the house, Etta Mae's mother drew a card from her purse and extended it. The card was faintly yellowed, but spidery-thin engraving sloped across it.

"Mrs. Logsdon calling," she said. "It is quite important."

Etta Mae goggled at her mother in astonishment. Could this be her mother? This cool, dignified person in the familiar coat and the bird's-feather hat? And calling cards! Engraved calling cards!

The door opened to its full extent. "Won't you step inside, please?"

They were led to two high-backed chairs—like thrones—in the entrance hall. The maid clicked away, bearing the magic card on a silver tray, to reappear with the information that Mrs. Carruthers would be down.

Etta Mae sat, with dangling feet, taking in her surroundings: the airy, spiraling staircase, the white, white woodwork, the gleaming waxy table. The immense vase as big as Etta Mae's head, the room beyond with its Baba jar, the room beyond with its pools of mirrors and elegant furnishings, and two sets of curtains at each window, and a *velvet* carpet!

There was a rustle on the stairway. Imitating her mother's example, Etta Mae stood up and awaited the inexorable approach of Doom. She gaped, open-mouthed. Doom was wearing a pair of black satin trousers, a blouse with sleeves like bat's wings, twinkly slippers with heels, couldn't-tell-when-they-ended heels, and her finger-polish. Around Doom's middle, which was so flat it was a wonder her insides weren't mashed, was a crimson sash kind of thing, on the order of a baby's belly-binder, wound around and around around until it was all pleaty-looking.

"Mrs. Carruthers," Etta Mae's mother said, the name poised like a question.

"Yes. You're Mrs. Logsdon? Was there something you wanted?"

"Yes," her mother said. "It's about a doll—"

They moved into the room beyond and drifted from view.

"Hello."

Etta Mae pivoted. She and the girl who, apparently, had arrived by way of the banister, contemplated one another speculatively.

"I'm nine," the girl said. "How old are you?"

"Seven-and-a-half-going-on-eight."

"Is that your shopping-bag?" Etta Mae nodded.

"What's in it?"

"Drusilla."

"Oh," the girl said. There was a small pause. "What's it do?"

"Nothing. It's dead."

"Can I see it? Please."

Before Etta Mae could stop her, she skipped over to the shopping-bag and began examining its contents.

"You said it was a dress-some-thing," she said disappointedly. "And that it was dead."

"That was its name. Drusilla. It was a doll, and it is dead."

"I don't like dolls. I have about umpty-teen and I don't like any of them." She grew thoughtful. "But I've never had a dead one."

Etta Mae took a deep breath.

"I guess maybe you have now," she said. "Because it's your doll. I swiped it and I was going to bring it back, but Wallace Parker killed it while I was in school."

"It's mine?"

"Uh-huh. It was in its pram and—"

"Oh I know. It was that old Evelyn doll, when we moved in. Who's Wallace Parker?"

"He's an idiot lives in our block."

"A really, truly idiot?"

"Uh-huh. I know he's the one who killed it because—"

"How does he act?"

"Scary."

"How scary?"

"Just about as scary as there is."

"Well, how?"

"Like this." Etta Mae wagged her head, and, twitched, and swiveled her eyeballs in their sockets. Delight tinged with admiration illumined her serious little face. "Do it again."

Etta Mae complied.

"Geel!"

"You try it." Etta Mae said, magnanimously. "Go ahead. It's easy."

"You watch and tell me if I look scary enough. Here goes!"

"Oh you do!" Etta Mae cried. "You look dreadful!"

"Do I really?"

"Honest!"

"Let's go out into the yard," suggested Etta Mae's new-found ally. There, the two squatted by a syringes bush, engaged in digging a small, rather lopsided grave with spoons.

"She's the image of you," Mrs. Carruthers said from the terrace. She called to the children and, a moment later, was enveloped in a whirlwind of arms and legs.

"Livia!" she protested. For the love of heaven, Calm down!

This is Etta Mae's hand and hop- ality about. "You know that Evelyn doll, well, she wasn't missing in the

NEW IDEAS FOR

Christmas Cheer

Christmas is always a jillion times more fun if you bring to it a few ideas. Don't say you never have any—maybe you've just never turned the proper key in the door that lets sprightly Christmas ideas dance forth! Usually all anyone needs is a start. Just try the following better-sketches of random Christmas tricks and soon you'll be dreaming up your own.

How do you display the Christmas cards your family receives? We put up what we call "the silver clothes-line." Silver ribbon is stretched across the room high enough so as not to interfere with holiday traffic. Cards are hung on it by means of clothespins, painted in gilt or colors.

Wrapping gifts can be a chore—an art—or a chance for antics. At our house, when we tire of being arty, we go in for comics. Some of the children's gifts are wrapped in bright new funny papers. Or we wrap them in plain tissue, pasting comic strips across the corners. Last year we had fun packing boxes for distant relatives by lining all the cartons with funny papers. This was the tip-off to the kids, uncles, grandmas and cousins to expect something different. And they got it, because we didn't tag or label a single package! Instead, we cut out appropriate pictures, and phrases from magazines and pasted these on the gifts as clues. For instance, Grandpa, who is fat, bald and fond of cigars, had his packages spattered

with ads for reducing pills, hair tonic, and big black stogies. If you use plenty of bright ribbon and holly, the beauty and flavour of Christmas is maintained even though the packages are amusing.

How do you keep track of who sends what, so you can properly thank the giver later? With three children and countless scattered relatives, this was always a problem for us until we hit upon the idea of a Christmas secretary. Each year we appoint someone in our group to write down what the gifts are—and from whom—as they are unwrapped. This saves a lot of confusion later.

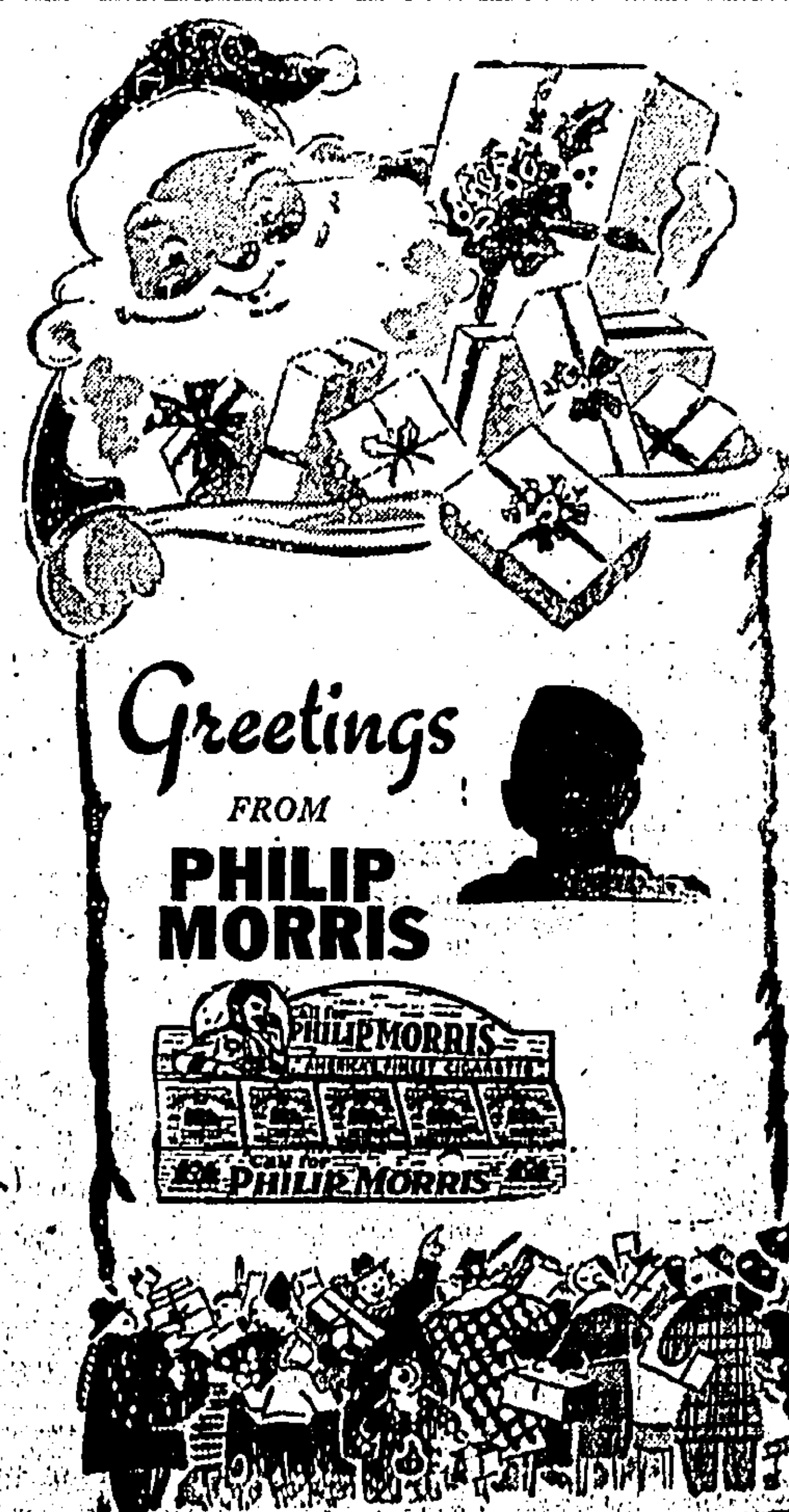
Huge, crunchy popcorn balls tied up in gay paper make wonderful handouts for every holiday caller. If grandmas and cousins to expect something different. And they got it, because we didn't tag or label a single package! Instead, we cut out appropriate pictures, and phrases from magazines and pasted these on the gifts as clues. For instance, Grandpa, who is fat, bald and fond of cigars, had his packages spattered

And now a blazing fire, some jolly carols for background music and the whole family gathered around the tree—what better way to wind up your Christmas?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS COAT?



OUR ARTIST MADE SIX INTENTIONAL MISTAKES IN MAKING THIS DRAWING. CAN YOU DISCOVER THEM?





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PARIS

SURRENDER
REFLEXION
DANGER

CHEVALIER de la NUIT

DOUX JASMIN

CAMELIA du MAROC

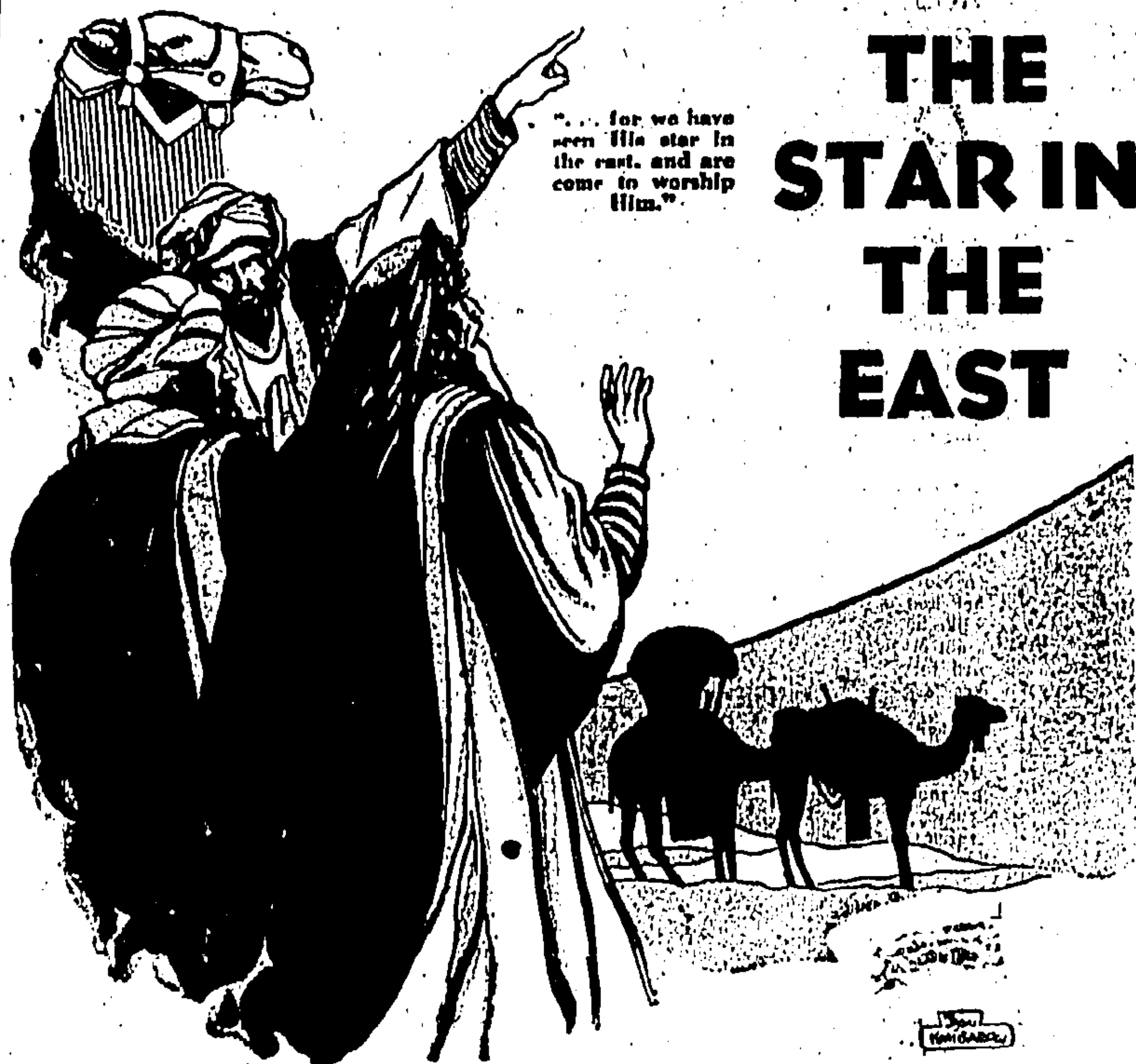
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THE STAR IN THE EAST

Mystery Star of the Three Wise Men

By John Cahill

His Star in the East! The magnificent, inexplicable flash of glory and limitless beauty in a subtle sky that so many centuries ago led the Magi to the Cradle of Christ in Bethlehem and still stands today as a challenge to the world of science.

To countless millions throughout the ages the Holy Star has remained what it was that joyous night in Judea—a miraculous message from on high. On each succeeding Christmas the star has appeared again to them, in their imagination or in their inner consciences. They are satisfied that it shone as a beacon light to salvation when the world cried aloud for a saviour.

And each succeeding Christmas the scientists try again to make up their minds whether it was indeed a miracle, or something as comparatively prosaic as an exploding star, a conjunction of planets or a comet.

Science's Admission

For while science admits that miracles have occurred and will occur again, the mind steeped in logarithms and "Q. E. D.'s" must perforce seek after the whys and wherefores.

Each day during the Christmas season the scientists seek to recreate the heavens, as they shone on the night of the Nativity. There is some documentary evidence to show that three brilliant planets were in conjunction on that "Silent Night, Holy Night."

What is known from the Scriptures and the legends dear to Christianity is that the Magi, the Wise Men of the East, torn with anguish by the brutal tyrannies exacted by Herod upon their people, waited with anxious eyes the appearance of some message from Heaven to tell them that Christ had been born.

Suddenly this great star or conjunction of planets appeared in the eastern sky, lighting up the bowl of black above their heads with an effulgent radiance and calling from far Chaldaea, Persia and Arabia the Wise Men who knew that the signal so long awaited had come at last.

Toward this mystic light and toward Bethlehem they turned their steps, carrying frankincense and myrrh and gifts of untold value for the son of God.

The passage of 20 centuries has not sufficed to dispel the mystery and wonder of this magnificent star, but in all justice to science it must be admitted that the "wise men" of a later day lost little time in attempting to probe this greatest of all celestial phenomena. Dr. Clyde Fisher of the Hayden Planetarium, who admits that the conjunction theory is at least worthy of intensive study, says:

"This triple conjunction of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, in one of the rarest of celestial events. It happens only once in every 800 years. The next one is due early in the 25th century. So scientists will have to wait a while before they can test the theory in the heavens itself."

But by means of lenses and photographic plates that are worth their weight in gold, the Hayden scientists are able to reproduce upon the Planetarium's artificial sky a creditable facsimile of the event supposed to have occurred upon the first Christmas eve, and in so doing are able to put to the test a theory advanced originally in the 17th century by Johann Kepler, one of the earliest of the world's great astronomers.

Kepler ran his calculations back after reviewing the extraordinary conjunction and found that it had taken place before in 799 A.D. and in December of the year 7 B.C. Modern investigation has disclosed that the year of the birth of Christ does not correspond to the year 1 of our era. By fixing the date of the death of Herod it became possible to date many New Testament events and to fix the year of the first Christmas.

This has proved to be 7 B.C. The conjunction appeared in the constellation Pisces, or Fishes, a sign of the Zodiac then of especial significance to the Jews. Kepler, alive to Judea's expectation of a Messiah, concluded it would be entirely logical for the Magi to interpret this celestial phenomenon as the awaited signal and to start out on their biblical journey forthwith.

Theory Exploded

Kepler's theory stood up fairly well until Professor Ideler of Berlin came along, and in 1826 showed that the three planets were at no time in absolute conjunction, ruling out the possibility of their appearing as a single star. Then came geographers who proved that there were no roads or negotiable thoroughfares prevailing at the time that would enable the Wise Men to travel to Bethlehem and keep the star in front of them for any length of time.

So the world of science was ripe and ready for some new explanation when Prof. R. A. Proctor propounded the theory that the Star of Bethlehem was really a comet. This seemed to account for some discrepancies until men learned in scientific lore pointed out that the ancients all feared comets as harbingers of evil and as retribution for sins done on earth—hardly the signal of the saviour's arrival.

Then came the most beautiful and poetic "explanation" of all—that the Star of Bethlehem was a "nova" or an exploding star, one of those incredibly glorious phenomena of the heavens created when two cold, dead bodies of the upper atmosphere collide in space at 400 miles a second and set loose the pyrotechnic gases buried in their interior.

Immediately after the contact, the pent-up fury deep inside the dead stars bursts forth in a terrific blaze. Arrested in mid-flight, these bodies turn and twist as a common center and produce an illumination with their burning fragments that vies with that of the noonday sun. The newly-created "live" star may remain in the sky for quite some time but eventually its brightness fades and finally the star cools off and disappears.

If the Star of Bethlehem was a nova that has long since "cooled" and become invisible, there is no way known to astronomers of recapturing

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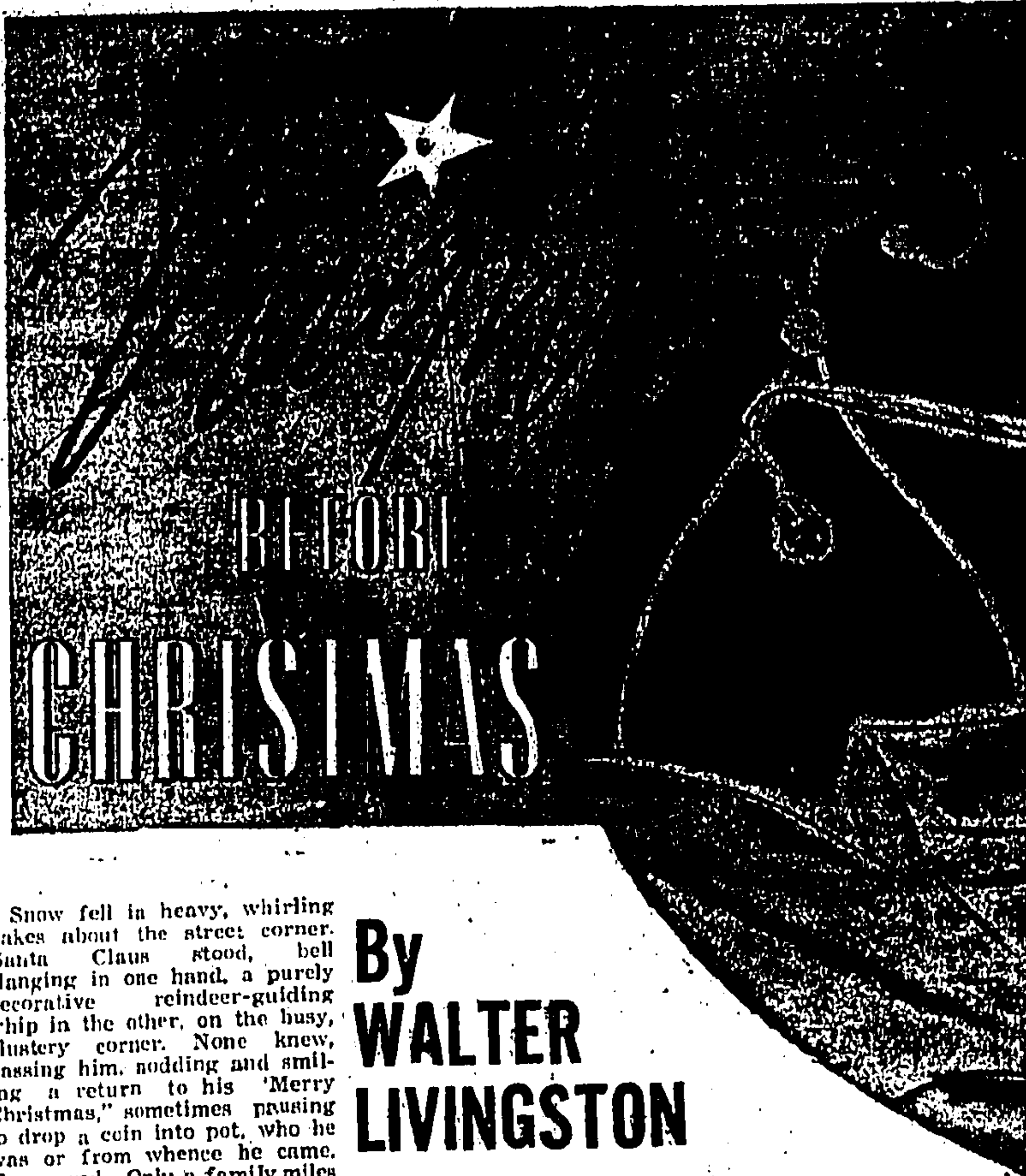
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By WALTER LIVINGSTON

Snow fell in heavy, whirling flakes about the street corner. Santa Claus stood, bell clanging in one hand, a purely decorative reindeer-guiding whip in the other, on the busy, blustery corner. None knew, passing him, nodding and smiling a return to his "Merry Christmas," sometimes pausing to drop a coin into pot, who he was or from whence he came. Few cared. Only a family miles away—a wife, child, a grey-haired mother—wondered where he was, what had happened to him, why he had gone away.

Nick Tierney knew he should do that which he told himself he could not do—go home. As he stood now at this cold, blustery corner, the bell clanging in his hand, feeling lost and absurd in this holiday guise, he was aware of Nicks, Jr.'s, childish laughter; he saw his mother's eyes before him, wet, appealing.

Dr. Nicholas Tierney could not go home. Not until he had made good, at something else. Or not, at least, until he had money. "It's better," he muttered, "to wait. I can get money. There are many ways of getting it, fast, in such a big city. If one isn't too particular," he added, grimly. He'd been telling himself this for almost a year.

No, he couldn't go back. A doctor held responsible for bungling an easy operation could never go back. Not once he'd quit. And that's what the brilliant young surgeon, Dr. Nicholas Tierney, had done. Quit. Quit in silent, bitter anger, in shocked, hurt bewilderment. Quit when perhaps he could have remained and fought. Fought not openly—ethics wouldn't allow for the protegee to publicly place the blame where it belonged. On the master surgeon who was aging, whose hand wasn't as steady that morning as it should have been, who'd bit the scalpel a fraction of an inch too deep... then coolly indicated for Dr. Tierney to take over. Fortunately, the patient survived.

No, ethics wouldn't allow for an accusation, an open fight. He might have stayed and fought, quietly. In time perhaps he'd have been able to prove himself, his innocence, his ability, and removed the questioning, calculating look from the eyes of his colleagues. But the battle, then, had seemed too hard, too long, too worthless. If it's like this, he'd reasoned bitterly, I'm through. I'll do something else.

He left a note for Marie and came here to be swallowed up in this big city. Here he found there was little a man of medicine could do who was no longer a man of medicine. What money he'd come away with was gone, had been gone for weeks, he'd sought a job in the department store before which he now stood at just the moment they'd decided to put a Santa out front. "Hey, Bo!" He swung half-around.

"Merry Chris—" "Save it, Bo. I'm the one that's playing Santa, maybe." The man went through the motion of dropping a coin into the Welfare pot. "Want to make yourself some Christmas money?"

Dr. Tierney frowned, kept ringing the bell. "I ain't got much time. If you don't want to do it I'll get the guy on the next block, see?" The voice was low and razor-like, like the face. "There's some stuff in a house up on the Avenue that I want. I know the layout and I got the combination to the safe. All you have to do is walk in and walk out with it. They'll all be in another part of the house, trimming the tree, as they do every Christmas Eve. The kids'll be

asleep upstairs. It's a cinch. Dressed in that outfit makes it easy, easy and no risk hardly. If anyone should bump into you you're playing Santa Claus, see? Bring the stuff out to me and it's worth five hundred bucks."

"Five hundred!—" "That's right. Well, what do you say, Bo?" "Why not? Easy and practically without risk. This individual would get him in to the right room. Then—just walk across, open the safe and walk out. "All right. I'm through here at eight."

"I know it," the man said. "I been watching you for two days. Meet me at nine at the corner of The Avenue on this side of the street. I'll pick you up."

He nodded. "Very well, I'll be there." The man went off. The snow fell more quickly. Nick Tierney's gaze settled for a moment, lingeringly, on the blunt grey structure which was the Mid-town Hospital. He tore his eyes away. Soon he would receive a larger fee than he'd ever received before for an operation.

If you do it you'll never be able to go back, never!

He laughed, harshly, low in his throat. "I don't want to go back. I'll bring them here." The corner, at which he was to meet the man was not too far from the cheap rooming house where Nick lived and he decided rather than go to a restaurant dressed as he was he'd follow his usual routine and return to his room. There he would lie down and rest a minute.

Moving cross-town he deliberated what he'd do when it was over. He'd have a couple of Yuletide drinks, and dine in style. Then he'd do some Christmas shopping of his own, for Marie and Nickie and his mother. He might even send for them to come to him, now, spend Christmas Day with him in the city, maybe keep them here.

Strangely, there seemed small pleasure in the thought of buying the gifts he'd decided upon, and his half-formed plan of bringing his family here to him, for even a day, had perished by the time he'd reached the place where he lived.

He held the bell and the gay reindeer whip in one hand and opened the house with the other. The bell tinkled as he moved along the hall. At the steps the landlady was in conversation with a bespectacled young man.

"No, she's worse, Mrs. McCarthy," Nick heard the young man say, wearily, as he approached. "I've done everything I can. The crisis will come to night. If only we could get her to sleep her chances would be so much better."

"Now what a pity!" The landlady sighed deeply. "And she such a nice and pretty little mite, too. Sometimes it seems like the good Lord... Top of the evening to you, Mr. Temple, and a Merry Christmas to be sure." "Merry Christmas," Nick murmured in return; he went on up the stairs, his boots clattering on the hard wood, the bell tinkling lightly.

He took off the mittens and the Kris Kringle hat and the whiskers, washed while the soup slowly heated over the single

gas jet the range boasted. Some talk of a sick child in the house had filtered through to him but he hadn't paid much attention. Now it seemed the youngster was worse. That bespectacled young man was the doctor, of course.

Grippe pneumonia, probably. Yes, sleep—deep, regular, peaceful sleep—was often a deciding factor in such cases.

He was finishing the soup when there was a knock at the door. In response to his "Come in" the young man entered. "I'm Doctor Morton." His voice was tired, harried. "I've been attending the Jensen child, Anita, down the hall. Been with her all day. She's bad. Pneumonia. If I could get her to sleep she'd have a chance."

Nick kept looking at the weary face, realizing exactly what young Dr. Morton was going through. Tough!

"She's been asking for Santa Claus, before, when she heard the bell—well, I wasn't in there but the parents say she thought it was Santa coming to see her. It was a disappointment when—hell, man, what I'm trying to say is will you wear your suit in there and play Santa Claus? I've tried everything else. It can't do any harm, that's certain. And it might do the trick."

Dr. Nicholas Tierney's gaze travelled from the drawn face to the noisy alarm clock ticking on the wall. Twenty-nine, it read. "I was just leaving, I have to be—back on the job at nine."

"A minute or two will suffice. I'd be ever so grateful, and her tummy eternally so, if it works." "All right. A minute or two." He got up and stood in front of the mirror, adjusted the whiskers, put on the red cap with the white ball atop it, drew on the mittens, picked up the whip and bell.

He closed the door behind him and now he did those things he had done as a Santa Claus the last two Christmases at home in Eastchester, playing the role as he had played it for Nickie, Jr. He stomped about, rang the bell constantly, lightly, called out in a deep, merry voice feigning to halt his reindeers.

He moved slowly down the hall until a door opened and young Dr. Morton exclaimed: "Well here he is now! Hello, Santa. Have you come to see Anita Jensen?"

"Yes, I've come to see Anita Jensen," Nick boomed; he stepped inside.

The child lay on a bed in the cheap, semi-dark room. Her eyes glowed like two tiny black coals in her small, pale face. "Hello, Santa Claus," she greeted weakly.

Nick went forward past the doctor and the parents, his mittened hand outstretched. "Hello, Anita Jensen," he said in his deep, hoarse Kris Kringle tone. "I hear you have been a very good girl. I have left a doll and other presents for you down stairs, but you must not open them till tomorrow."

She smiled weakly, happily, took Nick's big mittened hand in hers, clung to it. "I hear you come, Santa," she went on softly. "I heard the bells of your sleigh. Is Blitzen with you?"

"You are a smart little girl," Nick rumbled. "Blitzen is my reindeer."

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Who Was Dick Whittington?

The age-old legend of Dick Whittington—the poor boy who hiked to London with his cat and became a rich and popular Lord Mayor of the City—is one of the favourite themes of Christmas pantomime.

Although the story has been stretched and twisted in all ways by amusement caterers, yet much of the basis of the legend is fact. There was in truth, a Dick Whittington who travelled to London as a boy and became thrice Lord Mayor of the capital city.

Original Records Lost
Many of the original records and chronicles concerning the life of Dick Whittington were lost in

the Great Fire, but from various sources many of them only brief references, we can trace more or less the authentic story of one of the most romantic figures in history.

Dick Whittington was not a poor boy; that is certain. He was the third son of Sir William Whittington of Pauncy in Gloucestershire. Sir William was a wealthy man and young Dick's life might have been very different but for the fact that his father fell on evil days and, according to some reports, was outlawed.

Young Dick was sent to London to serve an apprenticeship with Sir Ivor Fitzwarin, a wealthy Dorsetshire knight, who ran a very successful shipping merchant's business in London. How did Dick reach London? Did he walk? Records vary on this point, but it seems more than likely that he was forced to walk part of the way, for we do not read of him possessing a horse and that was the only method of travel in the 14th century.

Now what of his famous cat, for Dick Whittington of pantomime fame is never seen without his equally illustrious four-legged friend. There are portraits in existence, painted in the 16th century, which show Dick with a black and white cat, while a statue of the boy who was to become Lord Mayor, with his hand on the head of a cat, was erected over the main gate when Newgate Prison was rebuilt by the generous bequest of Dick Whittington.

What Kind Of A Cat?
Whether the cat walked to London with its young master cannot be proved, but it is more than probable that Dick was a lover of cats, for he was a genuine devotee of the simple pleasures of life. But there is another, and far more plausible explanation of the popularly accepted connection between Dick Whittington and his cat.

The young West Countryman who travelled to London to try to relieve the fortunes of his family, certainly did not lack courage, nor the faculty for hard work. That is obvious from the fact that it was not long before the youthful apprentice had achieved such success that he not only set up as a mercer in his own right, but he wooed and won Sir Ivor Fitzwarin's beautiful daughter Alice.

That chapter of the legendary story is definitely true to fact. **Trader in Silks**
Richard Whittington traded mostly in silks, which were in great demand in those days. The merchandise was carried from Continental ports to London in small, shallow boats known as "cates", and that, some historians contend, is the reason why Dick's name is always connected with a cat.

Be that as it may, Richard Whittington prospered exceedingly and he was only 35 when he was elected an Alderman and Sheriff of the City of London. Three years later, Adam Brome, the Lord Mayor, died suddenly, and it was the young mercer who was appointed by the king to succeed him.

Whittington had progressed beyond his most ambitious dreams. On two further occasions he was elected to the high office of Lord Mayor, just as the bells of Bow Church are supposed to have predicted years before. He became, also, the confidential friend of kings and princes.

He is often referred to as Sir Richard Whittington, but nowhere can I find proof of his knighthood.

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Entertained Royalty

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Both Henry IV and Henry V had occasion to be grateful to Whittington for his ready loans to the royal purse, loans to the extent of many thousands of pounds, for which he often received payment.

Helped The Poor

In later life Whittington was left without wife or children and he found his greatest joy in his charitable benevolence. His work in this respect had been handed down through the centuries as a perpetual monument to his memory.

He bore nearly all the cost of building the Greyfriars Library and founded the college of St. Michael, Paternoster Church and the adjoining hospital. The hospital was destroyed in the Great Fire; it was rebuilt in the shape of almshouses at Highgate near to the now famous milestone which is inscribed with the legend of Bow Bells. The almshouses are now maintained by the Mercers' Company.

Richard Whittington had a deep interest in the poor and the sick, and among many bequests he left money for the restoration of St. Barth's Hospital. He was also appalled in his old age by the squalor of Newgate Prison, and it was thanks to his charitable interest that the prison was rebuilt. There may have been many other instances of his charity, but they have been lost as was his tomb in the heart of the London he loved so dearly, as a result of the Great Fire.

Such is the real story of Dick Whittington. Yet, it is not so very far removed from the legend that has been built up around his romantic character and life.



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NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

(Continued from Page 10)

The child looked up at the ceiling. "I wish I had a reindeer like Blitzen," she murmured.

Nick sat on the chair beside the bed. "Santa Claus can't give you Blitzen," he said, "because if he did he wouldn't be able to deliver all the presents he has for other little children. But Santa can give you Blitzen's whip. Would you like that?"

The child's gaze swung from the ceiling, riveted on the whip. "Santa! Oh, would you? That would make me so happy! Then when I get well I could tell all the other boys and girls that Santa himself gave me Blitzen's whip and they'd all want to play with it!"

"Here it is, then, Anita," he placed the whip in the child's free hand.

Her bright, shining eyes left Nick and sought her mother. "Mommy," she breathed, "look—look what Santa gave me!"

Mrs. Jensen smiled mistily; her lips trembled. "Please tell me about your dwarfs, Santa," the child whispered.

"Just One Story"

"I'm sorry, Anita," his voice was nearly his own as he remembered, suddenly, vividly, the man he was to meet at nine o'clock—"Santa must go now." He rose. The child's hand, hot, feverish, clung to his. Nick tried gently to release it.

"Please, Santa Claus. Just one story. I feel so—so good with you here."

Nick Tierney stood where he was in his Kris Kringle suit and whiskers, a sick child's hand the mere link between what he told himself he ought to do and what he knew deep in his heart he should do.

Transpose sixty miles and might not this be Nickie Jr. lying on this bed and that dim, stifled suffering Marie's? The words of an oath accepted for as long as he should live, for gotten, forsaken, returned now, strongly, seeming to light briefly this poor dark room.

"While I continue to keep this oath inviolate, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of my art, respected always by all men."

Enjoy life and the practice of my art, respected by all men! He sat down. "There is a story—" he had to fight to control the words—"which my dwarfs will allow me to tell only to—the children they like best. As you may know, Anita, my dwarfs always by day and work at night. During the night while they are at work you see, they do not need anyone to watch over their affairs; they can do it themselves. Now, as in the past, he was using his voice as he might use an instrument. He felt much of his own quiet confidence, his courage, his strength passing from him into the patient.

"Could I Be Their Princess?"

"But Anita, the day, while they are sleeping, my dwarfs need someone who keeps very well at night and in the night during the day, to look after the Princess."

The childish mind took the lure. "Could I be their Princess, Santa Claus? Oh, could I?"

"Perhaps. If you would sleep now I could take back a good report of you. I might even say to them, Dwarfs, Anita Jensen is the little girl who should be your Princess. She is a smart girl and she sleeps very well by night."

"Stay here with me, please Santa Claus, for just a little while."

"Very well, Anita. Now let me see—" He tucked the quilt up about his shoulders. The room and those others in it became tensely silent. The child, however, Dr. Tierney noted, was not tense. She was relaxed. She sighed, deeply, yawned. From somewhere in the building a clock chimed nine times, slowly.

The child sighed again, felt for the whip, drew it close to her. Once more she yawned; her grasp of Nick's hand slackened. "Good night, Santa Claus," she murmured. Nick's heart jerked triumphantly about within him as the eyes closed.

"Good-night, Anita," he repeated softly.

The child's hand, not so hot now, slipped from his. The breathing was deep, peaceful, even.

Doctor Morton bent over the bed, startled. "She'll be all right now," he announced in a hushed tone. "She's sleeping."

He took off his glasses and wiped them. Nick Tierney rose and went out of that room and back into his own. He took off the Santa Claus suit and the whiskers and the boots, wrapped them in a pile. He'd leave them with the department store watchman as he went by. He set his suitcase on the bed, packed it.

Doctor Morton came in. Mr. Jensen with him. They tried to thank him. He knew it was they whom he should thank. Soon Jensen went away.

"It's too late to go back to your job?" Doctor Martin said. "I'm very sorry, I—"

No, It's Not Too Late

"No, it's not too late." He slipped into his coat, put on his hat, turned and reached for the suitcase. Morton turned with him and he heard Tierney's single sharp intake of breath as he realized that staring right at him were the neat, white letters embossed across the leather.

"DR. NICHOLAS TIERNEY"
"You know then, doctor?" Morton queried, staring at him. Tierney frowned. "Know what, Dr. Morton?" He picked up the suitcase.

"The papers here didn't give it much play. The Medical Society, I think, gave the whole story. That would suggest at Eastchester, retired, last week and confessed to the error for which he'd allowed you to be blamed. He recommended you highly. Doctor Tierney, an old friend of mine. I'm afraid you're the solution. They're waiting for you."

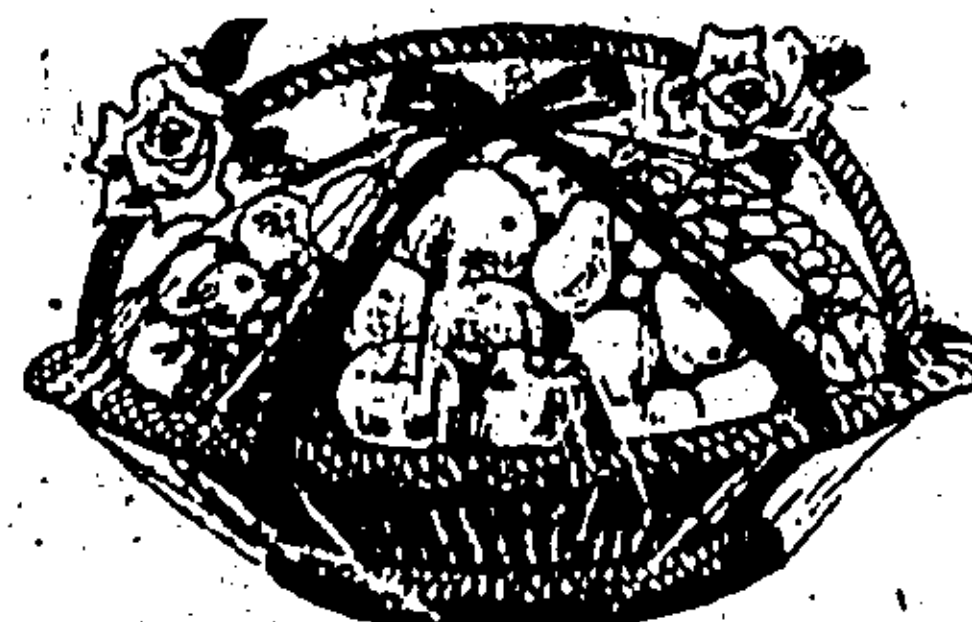
Now, what about Anita? In the night, during the day, to look after the Princess? He'd almost too long

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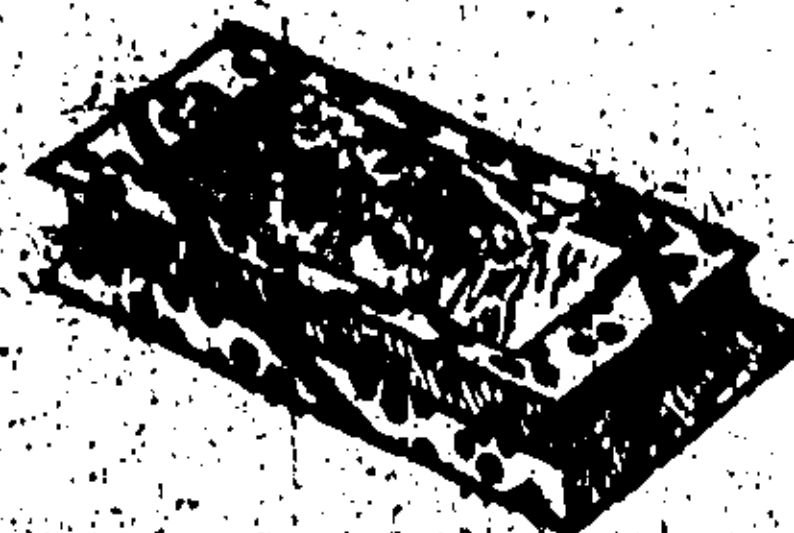
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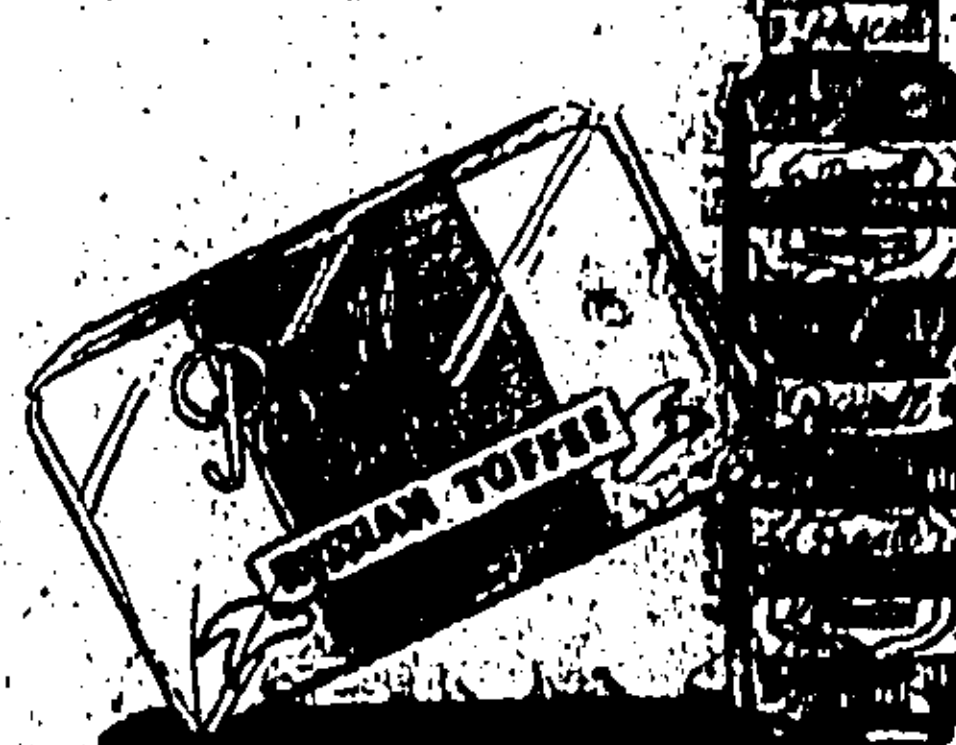
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The Message Of Bow Bells

Told By
**REV. F.C.
BAKER**

Next to the chiming of Big Ben, the sounds of Bow Bells are perhaps best known. They have been recorded, and are often heard throughout the world in the broadcasts of the B.B.C., although the bells, and the church to which they belong, were shattered by bombing.

St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside London—the Church of Bow Bells—is the most famous Church in the City. Its historic associations are, in general, in the second to none, for three churches already have stood upon the present site.

There was a Norman church of 1089, of which the crypt and three pillars remain. Then, there was a medieval church which was destroyed in the Great Fire of London 1666, and the third was built by Sir Christopher Wren between 1671 and 1682. Jutting out from the tower today, can be seen a small balcony which was constructed by Wren to commemorate a former Royal Standard constructed in 1327 for King Edward III, from which the joustings, pageants and tournaments in Cheapside could be safely witnessed by Royal personage of those days.

In Older Times

In older times, when the noise of the traffic was not so great as it is today, Bow Bells could be heard at Highgate, four miles away. Anyone who lived within reach of the sound of Bow Bells was entitled to be called a "Cockney" and it is probable that Dick Whittington heard the sound of Bow Bells, when he was somewhere near Highgate. The tenor bell was made in 1699. It weighed 53 cwt, and fragments of this great bell, with the date 1699 moulded on one of the pieces when the bell was cast, have survived the bombing. Originally, there were six bells, but the peal was increased to twelve in 1881. The whole peal weighed eleven tons, but when the Church was gutted by bombs in May 1941, the bells fell from the tower and were smashed. Though considerable damage was done to the church,

the walls and the steeple remain.

Those churches which suffered more severely than St. Mary-le-Bow are generally classified as "destroyed churches" which, as material buildings, they are. But a church is not necessarily destroyed because its fabric is blown to pieces. If its mission as a church continues, that church lives, and St. Mary-le-Bow lives on today as surely as the sound of its bells survive. A chapel was formed on the site of the former vestry and has a seating accommodation for 100 persons. Dedicated by the Bishop of London in 1944, it now serves the religious activities of the parish, till the church is rebuilt.

Few Residents.

There are few residents within the parish, but St. Mary-le-Bow ministers chiefly to those who are earning their daily bread in the City. A sermon is given every Thursday at mid-day to help these City workers to realise there is a meaning to life and to encourage them to live and to see the interpretation of life through Christianity.

Sunday, or week-end worship, can become conventional, as can also the observance of festivals like Christmas, but those who attend the mid-day Services have to forego their mid-day meal. This means that Christianity is a practical matter for them, and that the living church is not the material building, but the living Spirit of Christ in the human heart.

Listen, This Christmas:

It is this spirit, and this alone, that can give to our troubled world peace and good-will. What often passes for Christianity has been ineffective because it is, with many, little more than a label. This "playing at Christianity" must be

Yes, Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus

Dear Editor:
I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so."
Please tell me the truth—is there a Santa Claus?
VIRGINIA O'HANLON.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the scepticism of a sceptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas, how dreary would be the world if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe

in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Think God he lives, and he lives forever! A thousand years from now, Virginia; nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Reprinted from the New York Sun, Christmas, 1897.

And What Is Christmas?

Asks
**KATHLEEN
NORRIS**

The one completely inexplicable thing that has happened in all the world's history.

And this greatest and most influential event in our human story is also the one we can least understand.

If we could get away from ourselves for awhile, look upon our lives objectively, as if from another planet, how trivial all the other events would seem—the wars, territorial changes, scientific discoveries, the heroes and the geniuses, the criminals and the warriors.

One story would shine out above all the rest. One story greater than human hearts can encompass, and so regarded by millions of human hearts as unbelievable.

Yet it is true. It is true that there was a baby born in a far away land, nearly two thousand years ago, and that his people were simple labourers, carpenters and fishermen, and that He very simply expressed an extraordinary theory of the fatherhood of God and the sonship of man, and laid down certain laws that were entirely opposed to the common sense of the day—as of this day, too—and that He did strange things, cured the lame and the blind, fed the hungry on a mysterious plentitude of food, pardoned sinners with royal generosity.

This man never wrote a line, never had an influential friend, was deserted in His hour of need by His frightened companions, and died the death of a common criminal. And yet His name and His story go thundering down through the ages, and no other name, of leader or King, stands beside it. Saints have followed Him, men, thousands of them, have died defending His law, but no other human ever spoke in a voice like His, and no other man ever could claim one half, or one tenth or one thousandth of the fame that is His.

Let those who say they would believe if they could see one of His miracles consider this: that there is no human miracle that compares with the stupendous miracle that is this day this week—just this—just Christmas. Just the whole world rejoicing that He was born, great churches shaken with organ music and glowing with thousands of candles, great hearts revelling in generosity and brotherhood, because of Him. Because of a young carpenter who died nearly two thousand years ago, died under a cloud, died alone, and left only a few frightened friends to remember Him after His death.

What is the answer? Who can laugh off this stupefying fact? The only possible answer is that

what He said was true, and that that truth of His, so difficult, so unacceptable to our human ways of thinking, permeates on and on, and will not die. We cannot live it, it is too hard and high and dazzling for us, but we know that it is true.

We know that love fulfils the law. We know that we should forgive our enemies, do good to them that hate us. We know that we should not have two coats, that our less fortunate neighbour should have one. We know that we should feed the hungry, clothe the naked, comfort the sorrowing. And that we know that if we had done all this there never could have been slums, crime, poverty, ignorance, war. We know it, but we cannot live it, and so the Christmas comes and goes, and we almost forget to connect His story with them at all.

This Christmas, give Him! His share. Have all the trimmings; the presents, the amusements, the feast, the family gathering. But remember that Christmas is based in this staggering miracle, and give it a little thought.

If you do many things must follow that finding of the Child who came at Christmas. You and I can do little to help the great, troubled world, on this sad and shadowed Christmas. But we can bring the true Christmas into our hearts and into our homes. Forgiveness. Friendliness. Giving. Kindness. We all need these things so pitifully, and the rush and hurry, the fear and crowding, the anxiety and pressure that touch all our lives now, we forget them. Christmas has grown strangely away from Christ. And yet at the very core of Thursday's celebration there lies the force—the never-to-be-fathomed force—of His example.

It seems to me strange that in the knowledge of this mysterious element working among us, this unanalysed voice saying "Forgive. Love your neighbor. Blessed are the merciful," yet mankind can still regard other things as more important, other facts as more clearly proven.

What science says today, science often contradicts tomorrow; today's great discovery is tomorrow's joke. But nothing makes out-of-date the simple words that were said so long ago, to so unimportant a group of bewildered fishermen. "Ask, and you shall receive. The Kingdom of heaven is within you."



CHRISTMAS

FOR EVERY TASTE, FOR EVERYBODY

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